

SPINE-TINGLING TALES OF MYSTERY AND SUSPENSE



ANC

WEB OF EVIL

JULY No. 16

10¢

What happens when a killer ghost is brought back from beyond...

See **THE MEDIUM
OF MURDER**



**DEATH'S
VENGEANCE**

The
FIEND

**HAMLET
OF HORROR**



WEB COMIC
UNIVERSE.COM

\$100,000 RING SALE

SELLING ENTIRE LOT — SAVINGS TO 60%!

ANY RING YOUR CHOICE **1.98**
Tax Paid

IMPORTED SIMILE STONES!

Out they go—every ring in stock—at the incredibly low price of 1.98—while supply lasts! Do not confuse with cheap, gaudy variety. These are superbly executed rings by jewelry craftsmen—real masterpieces of design! All are Simile stones, quality made in Europe!

Wear any ring 5 days at our risk! You must be delighted or your money comes back! RUSH ORDER TODAY with thin strip of paper to show ring size. Get several for gifts—while this amazing offer holds good!



The Windsor

A refined men's ring of superb craftsmanship with massive Pseudo Ruby & Diamonds. No. 408—a knockout! Only 1.98.



Star Studded

3 GIANT Pseudo Diamonds—a ring for well-dressed men! Gleaming electro gold plated. Really a knockout! No. 362. Reduced to 1.98.



Royal Peacock

Glamour! Has 15 brilliant color sparkling Rhinestones. Natural gold color setting. No. 331, Only 1.98.



Masonic Ring

A most superb! Masonic emblem in gold relief on simulated hat-top ruby, flanked by 2 imported pseudo Diamonds. Gold color band. No. 323, 1.98.



"Big 5" For Men

Extra heavy! 5 Pseudo Diamonds—hard to tell from genuine! Gold plated. Big price reduction! No. 319. Only 1.98.



Cocktail Cluster

Looks like \$500 cocktail ring! 10 fine pseudo diamonds & ruby. Gold color metal. No. 346, 1.98.



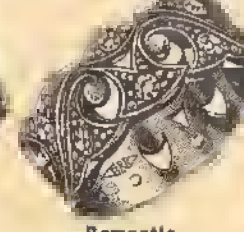
Modern Wedding Ring

Beautifully engraved by Baso-relief process. In natural gold color. No. 301, 1.98.



Men's Initial Ring

Your initial in 3-D relief on pseudo Ruby, flanked by 2 imitation diamonds. A real knockout! No. 401, Only 1.98.



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Women feel proud wearing this splendid friendship ring. Same styling as diamond rings. Gold color band. No. 309, Only 1.98.



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Lovely classical engagement ring! 5 brilliant Pseudo Diamonds. Natural gold color band. Price beginning for outfit! No. 357, 1.98.



Chiot Geronimo

Massive, extra heavy men's ring. 3 Dimensional head is fine example of implied Indian craftsmanship! Gold plated. No. 351—only 1.98.



Eternal Love

Gorgeous rings—12 sparkling Pseudo Diamonds. Natural gold color bands. 1.98 each ring. Both for 3.50. No. 311.



Entwined Hearts

Friendship ring of delicate beauty to be treasured for years! 2 "Hope" simulated Rubies. Entwined hearts. Gold color band. No. 413—1.98.



Twin Chormer

A twin's ring that out-dazzles same expensive ones! Lovely Sterling band, all with 2 large & 4 small pseudo Diamonds. No. 341, 1.98.



Broadway

A real men's ring! 2 extra large brilliant imitation diamonds on 14 K rolled gold plate heavy band. No. 411, 1.98.



The Sparkler

Truly brilliant pseudo Diamond appears to be on foot! Large treacher sparkler on 14 K. solid gold phi band. No. 336, Only 1.98.



Yours Alone

Exquisite Wedding Set. Round & Square-cut design Pseudo Diamonds. Either ring 1.98, both for 3.50. No. 304.

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THE MEDIUM OF MURDER



Z-ZAKOR... SEND HIM BACK... I BELIEVE YOU NOW... GASP! GASP! ... CAN'T BREATHE...

YOU WERE THE ONE WHO DOUBTED MY POWERS! NOW DIE FOR YOUR INSOLENCE!

I-IT'S UNBELIEVABLE... GHOSTS THAT KILL!

SOMEHOW THE TWISTED MADMAN HAD REACHED OUT INTO THE BEYOND TO CAST HIS SPELL AND SUMMON THE EVIL SPIRITS WHO LURKED THERE! AND UTILIZING THEIR FRIGHTENING POWERS ZAKOR STRUCK UPON A UNIQUE PLAN... A FOOLPROOF SCHEME FOR CRIME! FOR HOW CAN A GHOST BE TRIED FOR MURDER?

IN A SWIRLING FOG ON THE WATERFRONT A SHORT, STOCKY MAN PACES BACK AND FORTH IMPATIENTLY! THE ECHOING CLATTER OF UPTOWN TRAFFIC IS SUDDENLY BROKEN BY APPROACHING FOOTSTEPS!

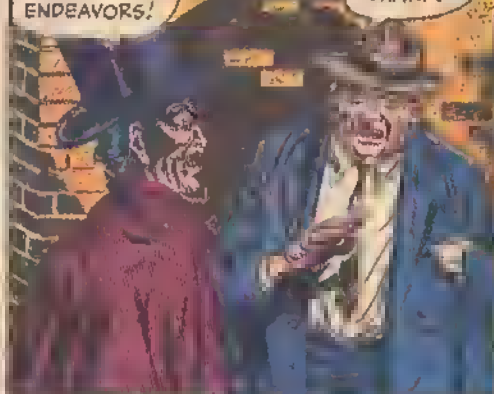
I'M EXTREMELY SORRY TO BE LATE, MY FAT FRIEND! A RATHER IMPORTANT SEANCE DELAYED ME! THE SPIRITS ARE HARD TO COMMUNICATE WITH IN SUCH FOUL WEATHER!

HUMPH! ME WITH A BAD TICKER AND YA KEEP ME WAITING IN THIS FEA SOUP! IF I CATCH A COLD IT'LL BE THE DEATH OF ME, ZAKOR!



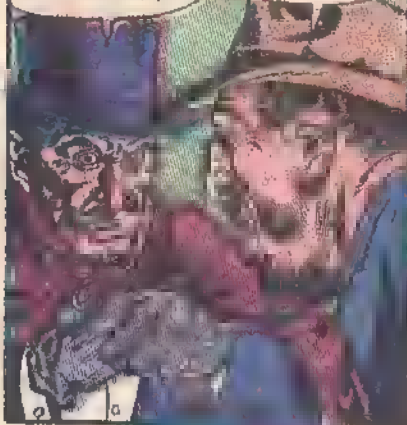
AH, LOUIE... I FEAR YOUR SMALL MIND CANNOT GRASP THE IMPORTANCE OF MY MEDIUMISTIC ENDEAVORS!

AW... SAVE THAT SPIRITUAL STUFF FOR YOUR SUCKERS, ZAKOR! NOW ABOUT TONIGHT... THE BOSS WILL GIVE YA THIRTY MINUTES! BE THERE AT ELEVEN SHARP!



AN AUDIENCE WITH "BIG JIM" KELLER AT LAST! LOOK DEEP INTO MY EYES, LOUIE! CAN YOU NOT SEE MY ANXIETY?

H-HUH...?



THAT'S IT... READ IF YOU CAN MY THOUGHTS, LOUIE! I CAN HELP YOU... YOU ARE MY FRIEND! CONCENTRATE!



FOR SEVERAL MINUTES THE GANGSTER STANDS TRANSFIXED BY THE MEDIUM'S SPELL! THEN...

HEY... DON'T PULL NONE OF THAT HOCUS-FOCUS ON ME, ZAKOR! BE AT "BIG JIM'S" TONIGHT AT ELEVEN SHARP! AND REMEMBER... YA GOT THIRTY SHORT MINUTES!

THAT WILL BE SUFFICIENT TIME, LOUIE! THANK YOU!



LATER THAT EVENING, ZAKOR, MASTER MEDIUM, CALLS UPON UNDERWORLD CZAR "BIG JIM" KELLER AT HIS LUXURIOUS PENTHOUSE APARTMENT!

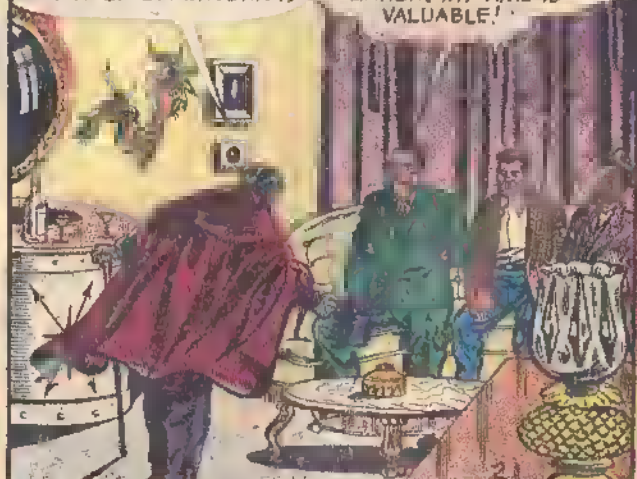
OH... IT'S YOU! I STILL THINK THE BOSS IS MAKIN' A BIG MISTAKE! YOU'RE AS PHONY AS CROOKED DICE!

ASIDE, PEON! SHOW ME TO YOUR...ER... MASTER IMMEDIATELY!



GREETINGS, MR. KELLER! I COME BEARING YOU THE FRUITS OF OPPORTUNITY!

CUT THE THEATRICALS AND GET DOWN TO BUSINESS, ZAKOR! MY TIME IS VALUABLE!



VERY WELL! I HAVE STRUCK UPON AN INGENIOUS PLAN...ONE WHICH WILL BE OF GREAT BENEFIT TO YOUR... BUSINESS! I CAN GUARANTEE THE PERFECT MURDER!

WHAT? START TALKING SENSE, ZAKOR!

THE UNDERWORLD FORMALITY OF HIRING OUT GUNMEN TO ANNIHILATE YOUR ENEMIES IS OBSOLETE, KELLER! WHY NOT EMPLOY **GHOSTS** TO DO THE JOB?

HUH? THE GUY'S BLOWN HIS TOP!

SHUT UP, "FINGERS"! LISTEN, ZAKOR...I GOT NO TIME FOR RIBS!

THIS IS NO JEST, KELLER! I AM IN COMMAND OF THE SPIRITUAL WORLD! I AND I ALONE HAVE THE POWER TO CONTROL IT! IF IT'S PROOF YOU WANT I CAN FURNISH IT...

OKAY, SWAMI! YOU'VE HAD YOUR LAUGH!

WAIT A MINUTE, LOUIE...

YOU SAY YOU CAN PROVE THIS...THIS RIDICULOUS STATEMENT! ALL RIGHT... GO AHEAD!

I'LL NEED A VICTIM FOR MY GHOST...WHAT ABOUT YOU, LOUIE? YOU HAVE VOICED YOUR DISBELIEF IN MY STATEMENT!

SURE...I'D BE GLAD TO MAKE A SAP OUTA YA!

MOVING TO THE TERRACE, ZAKOR FACES THE HEAVENS ABOVE! THEN WITH OUT-STRETCHED HANDS, CHANTS INCESSANTLY AS THE SKEPTICAL GANGSTERS LOOK ON!

SPIRITS...SPIRITS...I, ZAKOR, COMMAND YOU! I WISH TO BE RID OF THIS MORTAL LOUIE! COME AT ONCE AND TAKE HIM FROM THIS EARTH....

HUMPH! THIS CHARACTER SHOULD GET A ONE WAY TICKET TO THE INSANE ASYLUM!

CONTORTING HIS BODY GROTESQUELY, THE MEDIUM SUMMONS ALL HIS STRENGTH...

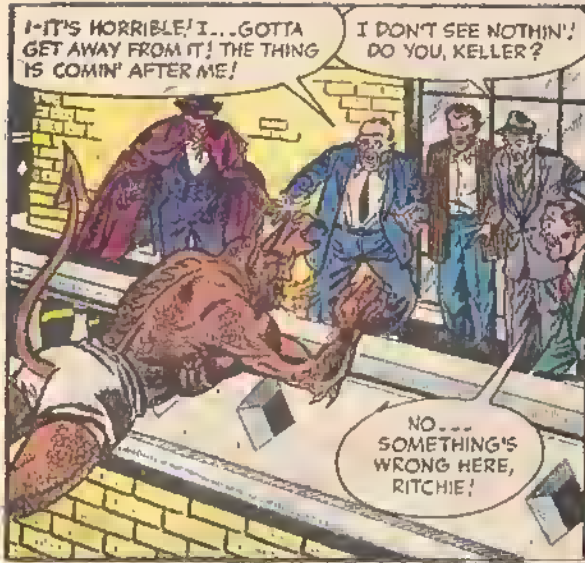
COME... COME, YOU DEMON SPIRITS! DESTROY THIS MAN AS I COMMAND!

HAHAHAHA! THIS IS BETTER THEN A THREE RING CIRCUS...

BUT SUDDENLY, LAUGHTER LEAVES THE FACE OF THE MOBSTER AS...

THERE...THERE IS THE MAN WHO DOUBTS MY POWER! DESTROY HIM!

HOHOHO...I-I... WHA? T-THAT THING... WHAT IS IT?



I-IT'S HORRIBLE! I... GOTTA GET AWAY FROM IT! THE THING IS COMIN' AFTER ME!

I DON'T SEE NOTHIN'! DO YOU, KELLER?

NO... SOMETHING'S WRONG HERE, RITCHIE!



Y-YIPE! IT'S... GOT ME BY THE THROAT! CALL IT OFF, ZAKOR... PLEASE!

I AM SORRY, MY FAT FRIEND! BUT I HAVE NO MERCY FOR THOSE WHO DISBELIEVE! DESTROY THIS MORTAL, GHOST!



C-CAN'T BREATHE... CHOKIN' THE LIFE... OUT... OF ME... GASP! GASP!

L-LOUIE???

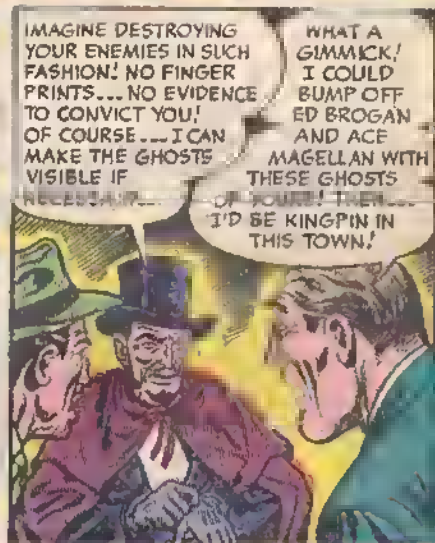
AN EXCELLENT JOB, GHOST! WELL DONE... INDEED! NOW RETURN... TO YOUR WORLD OF EVIL!



HE'S... THE DEADEST MAN I EVER SEEN, BOSS!

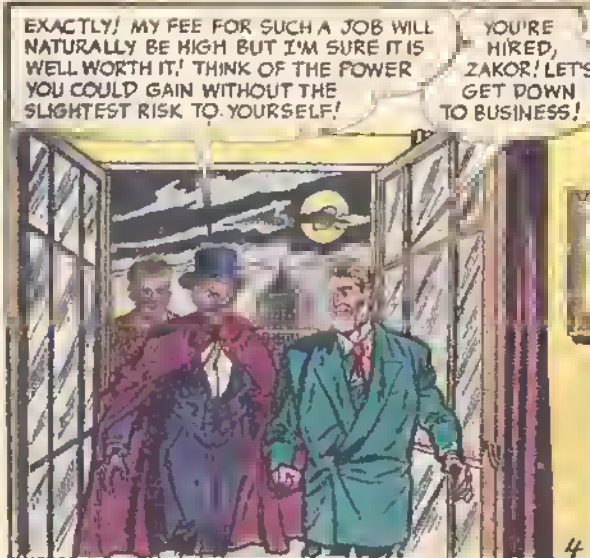
IT'S... REMARK-ABLE! ZAKOR, YOU ARE ON THE LEVEL! BUT WE SAW NO GHOST... BUT LOUIE DID! HOW COME?

THAT WAS TO IMPRESS YOU WITH MY POWERS, KELLER!



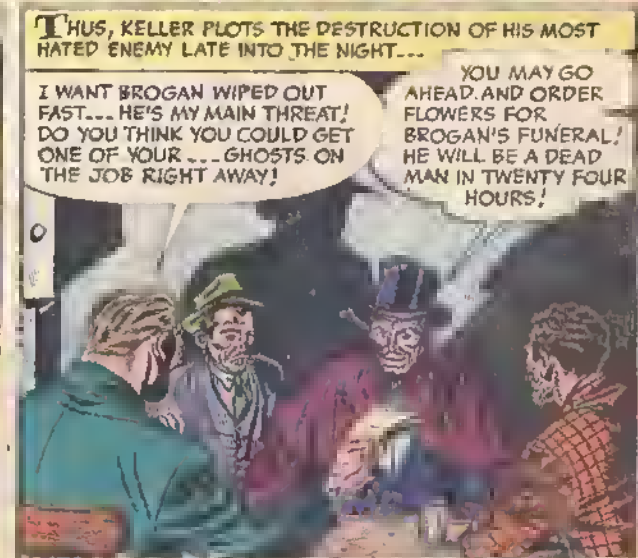
IMAGINE DESTROYING YOUR ENEMIES IN SUCH FASHION! NO FINGER PRINTS... NO EVIDENCE TO CONVICT YOU! OF COURSE... I CAN MAKE THE GHOSTS VISIBLE IF NECESSARY!

WHAT A GIMMICK! I COULD BUMP OFF BROGAN AND ACE MAGELLAN WITH THESE GHOSTS OF YOURS! THEN I'D BE KINGPIN IN THIS TOWN!



EXACTLY! MY FEE FOR SUCH A JOB WILL NATURALLY BE HIGH BUT I'M SURE IT IS WELL WORTH IT! THINK OF THE POWER YOU COULD GAIN WITHOUT THE SLIGHTEST RISK TO YOURSELF!

YOU'RE HIRED, ZAKOR! LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS!



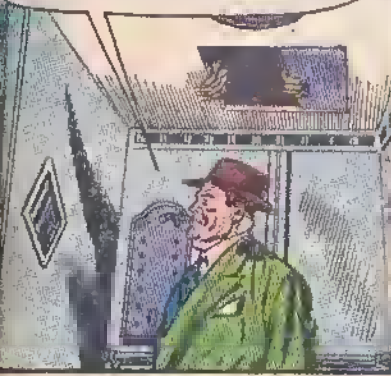
THUS, KELLER PLOTS THE DESTRUCTION OF HIS MOST HATED ENEMY LATE INTO THE NIGHT...

I WANT BROGAN WIPED OUT FAST... HE'S MY MAIN THREAT! DO YOU THINK YOU COULD GET ONE OF YOUR... GHOSTS ON THE JOB RIGHT AWAY!

YOU MAY GO AHEAD AND ORDER FLOWERS FOR BROGAN'S FUNERAL! HE WILL BE A DEAD MAN IN TWENTY FOUR HOURS!

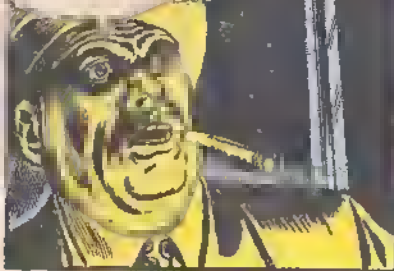
THE FOLLOWING EVENING AS "BOSS" ED BROGAN DESCENDS IN THE SELF-SERVICE ELEVATOR FROM HIS APARTMENT...

I GOTTA RETIRE FROM THE RACKETS ONE OF THESE DAYS! THE LAW'S MAKING IT TOUGH TO EARN A DISHONEST BUCK...



SUDDENLY...

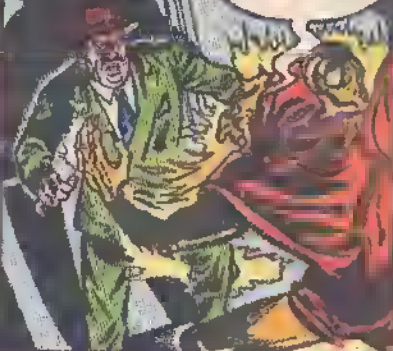
WHA... THE LIGHTS HAVE GONE OUT! G-GREAT SCOTT! WHAT'S THAT...



BEFORE THE PANIC STRICKEN GANGSTER CAN REGAIN HIS SENSES...

Y-Y-YPE! W-WHO ARE YOU? WHAT IS THIS... A JOKE?

AAAAIIIEEEEE EEEEE EEEEE!



Y-YOU'RE NOT HUMAN! GET AWAY FROM ME! GET AWAY!



YAAAAARGH!

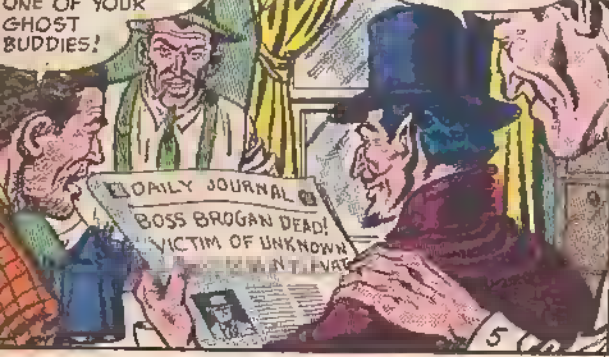


THE NEXT MORNING, GANGSTER KELLER AND HIS MEN GLOAT AS THEY READ THE REPORT IN THE NEWSPAPER...

HAHAHA... THE PAPER SAYS "UNKNOWN ASSASSIN"! BUT WE KNOW WHO DID IT HUH, ZAKOR? ONE OF YOUR GHOST BUDDIES!

I MUST CONGRATULATE IT ON A MOST EFFICIENT JOB!

SAY, ZAKOR... HOW'S CHANCES OF WATCHING YOUR GHOST IN ACTION WHEN YOU BUMP OFF ACE MAGELLAN?



VERY WELL! THAT IS QUITE EASY TO ARRANGE!

SWELL!

BOY... I CAN HARDLY WAIT TO SEE ACE GET IT!



THE NEXT EVENING, AS THE WEST SIDE GANG LEADER, ACE MAGELLAN, HEADS FOR HIS COUNTRY HIDEOUT!

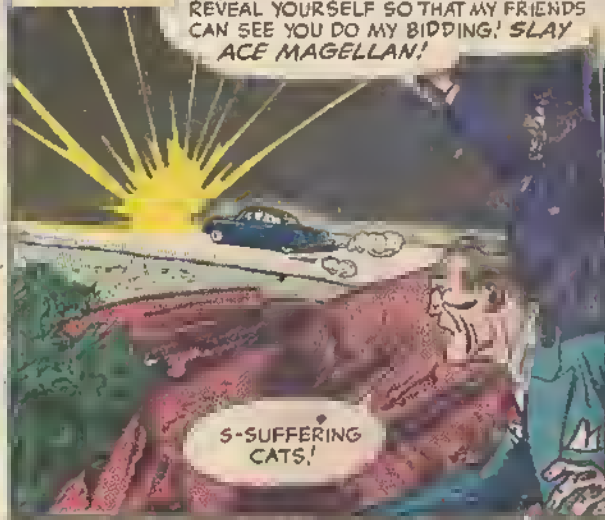
HERE HE COMES! THAT'S MAGELLAN'S CAR!

SILENCE! YOU MUST NOT MAKE A SOUND WHILE I SUMMON THE SPIRITS OF DEATH!...ARISE...ARISE, SPECTRES OF EVIL!



SUDDENLY...

OH, MIGHTY GHOSTS OF VENGEANCE... REVEAL YOURSELF SO THAT MY FRIENDS CAN SEE YOU DO MY BIDDING! SLAY ACE MAGELLAN!

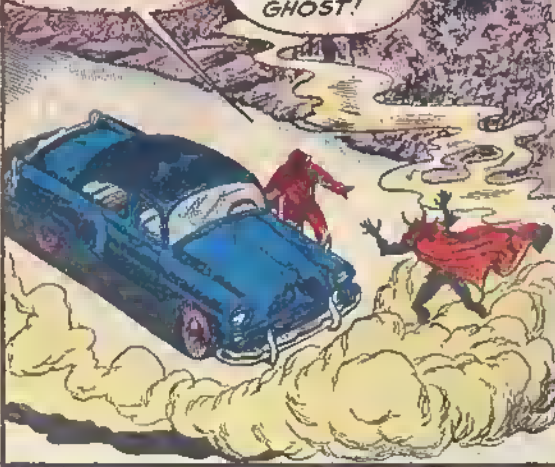


S-SUFFERING CATS!

SHORTLY, ACE MAGELLAN, HARDENED KILLER OF THE WEST SIDE, CRINGES BEFORE THE TERRIFYING SPECTRE THAT MOVES TOWARD HIM!

WHA...? YIIIIIIII! T-THE THING'S NOT HUMAN!

L-LOOK! T-THERE'S THE...KILLER GHOST!



AS THE GANG LEADER FLEES THE FEARFUL THING PURSUES HIM!

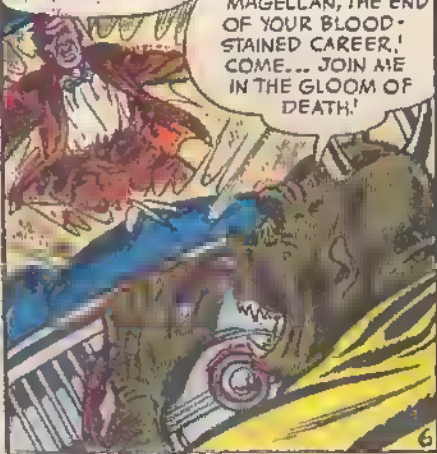
HEEEEEEEA, EEEEEIIIIII! OOOOOO!



THEN, DEATH BLOTS OUT ANOTHER MURDEROUS CAREER...

YAAAAAGH!

HEE HEEEEEE! THE END, ACE MAGELLAN, THE END OF YOUR BLOOD-STAINED CAREER! COME... JOIN ME IN THE GLOOM OF DEATH!



AND AFTERWARD...

I-I NEVER SEEN NOTHING LIKE THAT BEFORE!

NO INDEED! NOW, GENTLEMEN, YOUR RIVALS ARE DEAD! I, THE GREAT ZAKOR, HAVE ELIMINATED THEM FOR YOU! WE WILL RETURN TO MY CHAMBER TO DISCUSS... ER, BUSINESS!



SHORTLY, THE WIDE-EYED THUGS FOLLOW ZAKOR TO A SINISTER DWELLING WHERE...

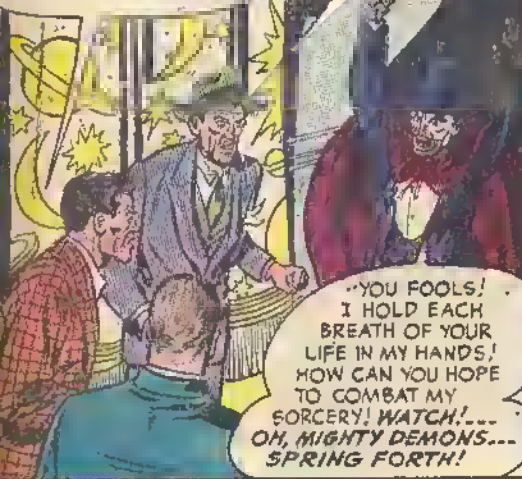
AS I SAID, WITH YOUR ENEMIES DISPOSED OF YOU CAN RULE THE CITY! I SHALL BE YOUR LEADER... FROM HENCEFORTH YOU WILL OBEY MY ORDERS AND BRING ALL STOLEN GOODS TO ME!

WHAT! YOU'RE TRYING TO TAKE OVER, ZAKOR! I'M THE BOSS!



THAT'S RIGHT! YOU WUZ JUST WORKIN' FER US! "BIG JIM'S", THE BOSS!

YEAH! DON'T GET SMART!



"YOU FOOLS! I HOLD EACH BREATH OF YOUR LIFE IN MY HANDS! HOW CAN YOU HOPE TO COMBAT MY SORCERY! WATCH!... OH, MIGHTY DEMONS... SPRING FORTH!"

INSTANTLY, THE LIGHTS DIM... A FEARFUL CRY RINGS OUT! STARK TERROR IS UNLEASHED UPON THE THREE HOODLUMS!

Y-YIPE! STOP IT, ZAKOR! DON'T LET 'EM GET US!

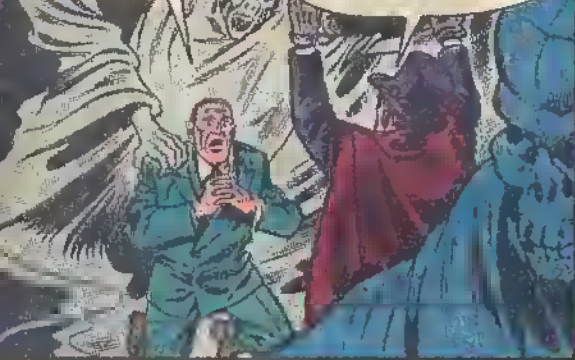
ULP!



A THOUSAND HORRORS FILL THE ROOM, EACH ONE MORE DREADFUL THAN THE OTHER! FINALLY...

G-GREAT GRIEF, MERCY, ZAKOR, MERCY! WE'LL DO AS YOU SAY! WE'LL DO ANYTHING!

VERY WELL!... CEASE, DEMONS FROM THE BEYOND! THOSE WHO SCORNE ME HAVE COME TO THEIR SENSES!



RETURN TO YOUR HOMES! ON THE MORROW YOU WILL BEGIN WORK AS MY UNDERLINGS! NO MORE MAY YOU CALL YOUR SOUL YOUR OWN!

Y-YES, ZAKOR!

Y-YES!



THEN, AFTER THE TREMBLING THUGS HAVE LEFT...

I DID WELL, DID I NOT, OH GREAT, ZAKOR! THE MAGICAL EFFECTS WORKED GOOD!

EXCELLENT, MAJAJ! THE FOOLS ARE COMPLETELY UNDER OUR CONTROL! HA! HOW WE FOOLED THEM BY YOU COMMITTING THE MURDERS AS YOU PRETEND TO BE A GHOST!



YES, ZAKOR... BUT IT WAS YOUR MASTER STROKE OF PREVIOUSLY HYPNOTIZING THAT "LITTLE" LOUIE CHARACTER THAT MADE THEM BELIEVE!

LOUIE'S MIND THAT HE WOULD BE ATTACKED BY A GHOST AT ELEVEN O'CLOCK YOU WORKED WONDERS!

YES, YES! FORTUNATELY HE HAD A BAD HEART! I KNEW HE WOULD DIE OF FRIGHT WHEN HIS

INFLUENCED BY MY POWER, ENVISIONED THE GHOST!



THUSLY, IN THE DAYS TO FOLLOW, ZAKOR'S EVIL SCHEME PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS!

THE PROCEEDS FROM THE WEST END BANK ROBBERY, ZAKOR!

A-AND THE JEWELS FROM THE EATON HOTEL ROBBERY!

GOOD! CONTINUE YOUR FINE THEFTS AND WE SHALL HAVE NO TROUBLE!



HIGHER AND HIGHER ZAKOR'S ILL GOTTEN GAINS ARE PILED UP! THEN, THE MEDIUM'S KEEN EYES SENSE TROUBLE....

AH, ZAKOR, WE HAVE A FABULOUS AMOUNT OF WEALTH ALREADY!

YES, MAJA, BUT I HAVE SEEN MURDER IN KELLER'S EYES OF LATE! HE PLANS TO TRICK ME I AM SURE!

TOMORROW NIGHT AT EIGHT YOU WILL DISPOSE OF KELLER! WE WILL FIND ANOTHER LEADER FOR THE GANG! KELLER IS TOO DANGEROUS... HE MUST BE DONE AWAY WITH!

VERY WELL, ZAKOR! I WILL BE IN THE SECRET BACK ROOM AT EIGHT SHARP! DO NOT FEAR!

THE NEXT EVENING, DOOM MOVES IN ON "BIG JIM" KELLER!

HARK WELL, KELLER! MY SPIRITS TELL ME YOU PLAN TO HARM ME! THEY HAVE DECIDED YOU MUST DIE!

WHA...?

HEAR ME, OH SPIRITS! DESCEND UPON THIS MAN WHO WISHES ME HARM! LET THE OTHERS SEE WHAT SHALL BEFALL THEM IF THEY DO NOT OBEY!

F-FINGERS! H-HARRY! HE'S CALLING THE GHOST FOR... ME! HELP ME! DO SOMETHING!

W-WE CAN'T HELP YOU, BOSS!

NO! NO!

THE GHOST OF RIGHT SEEKS YOU OUT, KELLER! HE HAS COME FROM BEYOND TO DESTROY THOSE WITH EVIL IN THEIR HEART! ONLY I CAN BRING HIM FORTH TO SEEK HIS VENGEANCE!

HA! MAJA GETS CLEVERER EACH DAY! SUCH A COSTUME... STRANGE HE HAS NOT TOLD ME OF IT!

THE GREAT GHOSTLY HANDS CLOSE IN UPON KELLER! PANIC STRICKEN, HIS LEGS TURN TO WATER... HE IS HELPLESS!

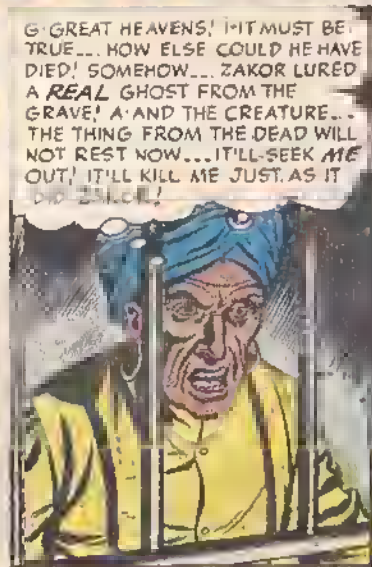
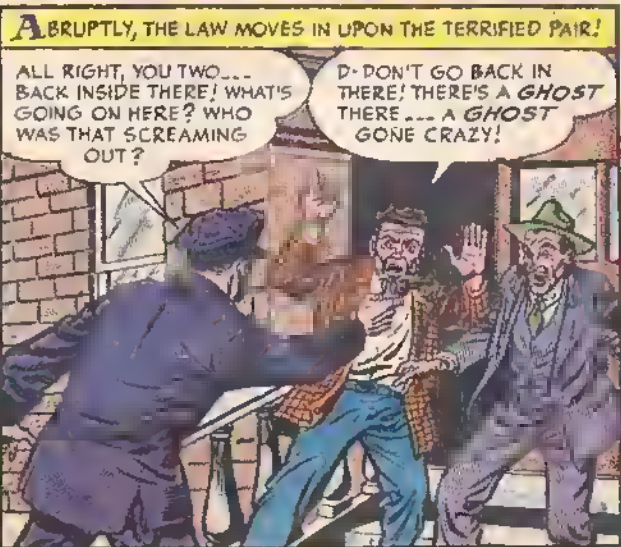
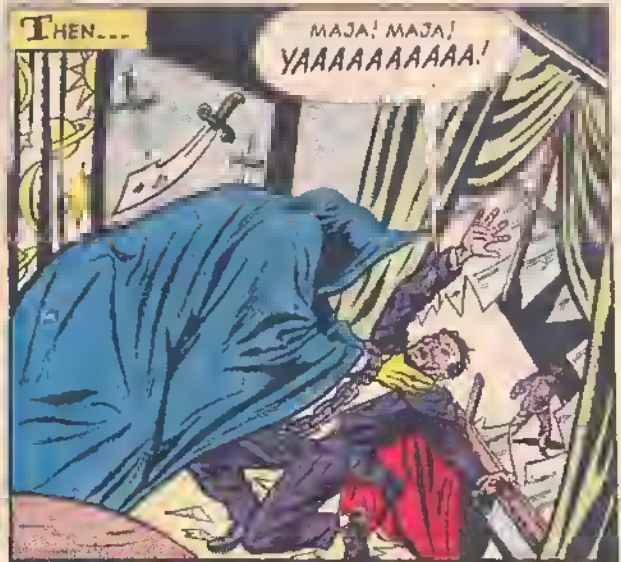
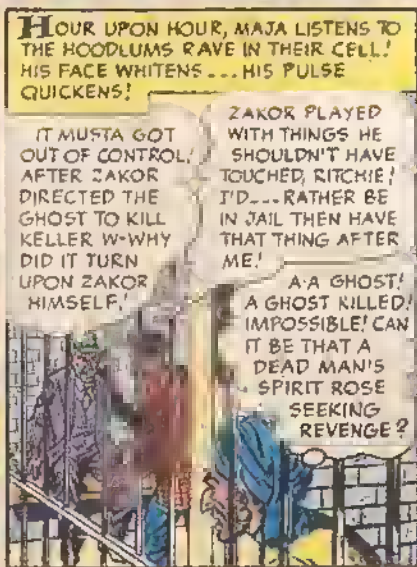
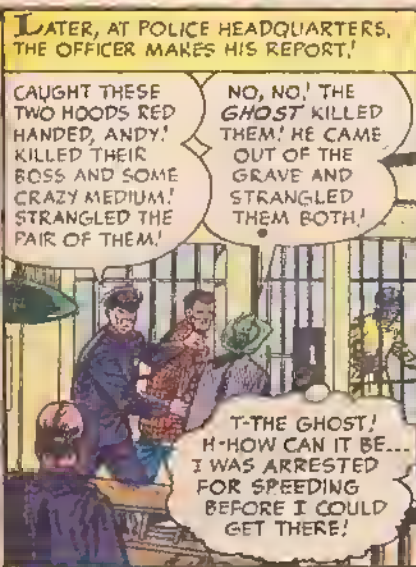
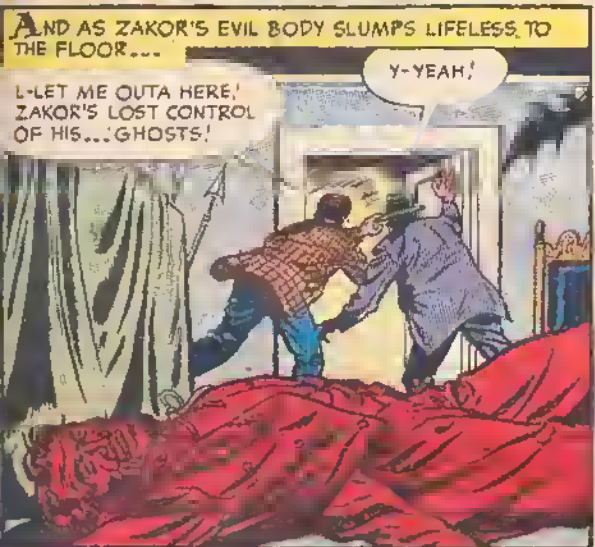
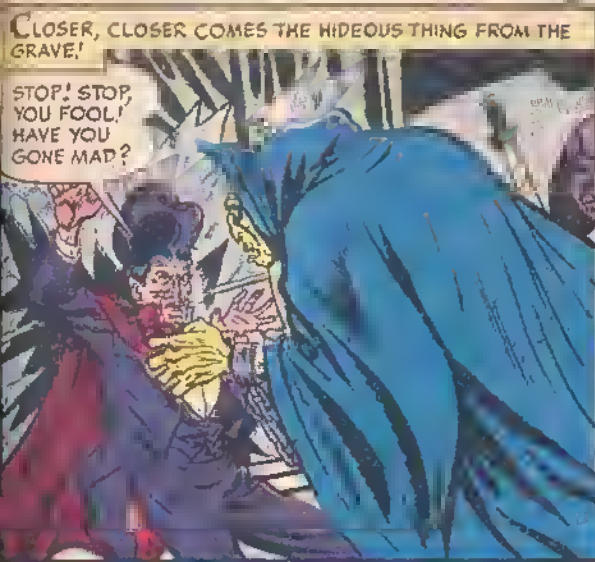
YAAAAARGH!

WELL DONE, OH, GHOST OF RIGHT! INDEED YOU DO YOUR JOB OF DESTROYING EVIL WELL! FINGERS, HARRY... LET THIS BE A LESSON TO YOU! NEVER SEEK TO BETRAY ME OR HE SHALL SEEK YOU OUT ALSO!

THEN, THE TERRIBLE THING TURNS...IT'S GHOSTLY EYES FALL UPON ZAKOR HIMSELF...

BACK... BACK, GHOST OF RIGHT! YOUR JOB IS FINISHED!

NO, ZAKOR... MY JOB... IS NOT DONE... YET!



The FIEND of TERROR MOUNTAIN



TERROR RACED THROUGH THE MAN WHO DEALT IN MURDER! NOW THE TABLES WERE TURNED--- NOW, DEATH, GROTESQUE AND IRRESISTIBLE, WAS MOVING IN UPON 'EMMET LEACHE!' AND HE STOOD HELPLESS BEFORE THE CREATURE HE HAD CREATED... A FIEND THAT WAS OBEYING HIS ORDERS TO THE LETTER!

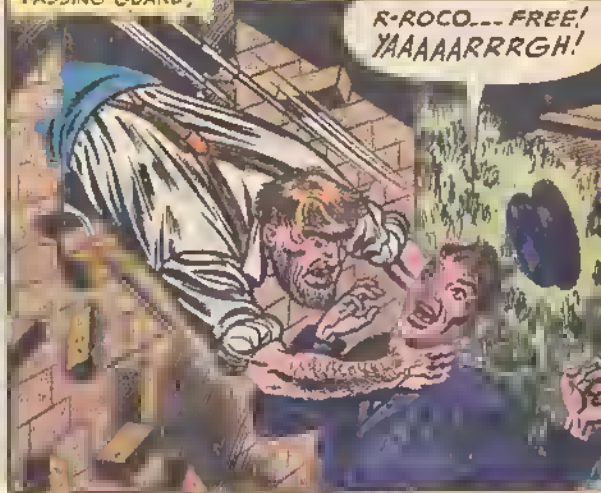
AT TERROR MOUNTAIN INSTITUTION FOR THE INSANE A DANGEROUS PATIENT WORKS AT THE WINDOW OF HIS PADDED CELL---

SOON... SOON I WILL BE FREE OF MY CAGE!

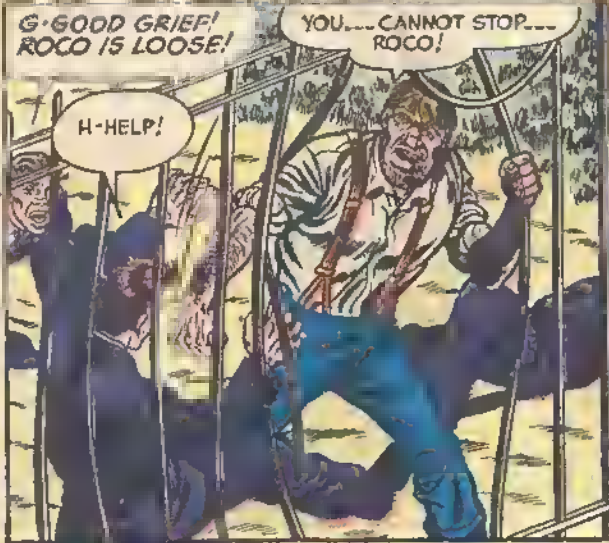


SHORTLY, SUDDEN DEATH DESCENDS UPON A PASSING GUARD!

R-ROCO... FREE! YAAAAARRGH!



NONE
CAN
SUBDUED
THE
CRAZED
CREATURE...
FOR
THE
STRENGTH
OF TEN
MEN
JURGES
THROUGH
HIS
MASSIVE
HULK!



G-GOOD GRIEF!
ROCO IS LOOSE!

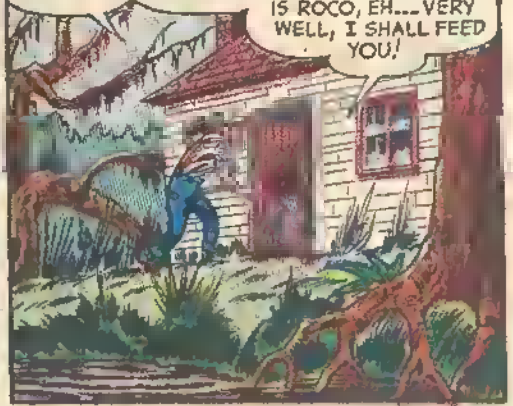
YOU... CANNOT STOP...
ROCO!

H-HELP!

LATER, DEEP IN THE MARSHES ROCO COMES
UPON A STRANGER...

FOOD...
ROCO
HUNGRY!

AH, ANOTHER
ESCAPER FROM THE MAD HOUSE!
YOU ARE INDEED A POWERFUL
THING TO BEHOLD! YOUR NAME
IS ROCO, EH... VERY
WELL, I SHALL FEED
YOU!



AS THE BRUTE EATS, CUNNING THOUGHTS FILL THE OTHER
MAN'S MIND!

I AM EMMET LEACHE,
ROCO! I AM YOUR FRIEND!

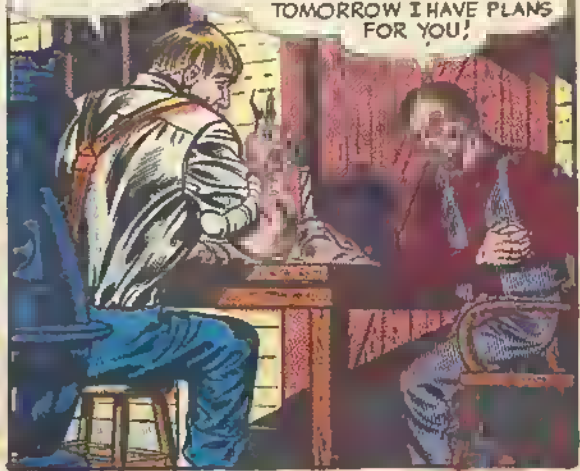
ROCO... NEED A FRIEND!

WITH THIS DULL, STUPID
CREATURE AT MY SIDE I COULD
MAKE MONEY! I COULD DOMINATE
HIM... BEND HIS WILL TO SUIT
ME! YES... WE
WOULD MAKE
A FINE TEAM!



YOU... ALL
RIGHT...
MR. LEACHE

OH!... YES... IT IS JUST AN OLD
PAIN! FINISH YOUR DINNER, ROCO!
YOU MUST GET REST... FOR
TOMORROW I HAVE PLANS
FOR YOU!



NEXT MORNING...

THIS ME... ROCO!
WHAT DOES IT SAY?

AHA! SO YOU
CANNOT READ
OR WRITE, EH?
SO MUCH THE
BETTER! IT SAYS
YOU ARE A
FAMOUS MAN,
ROCO... A VERY
FAMOUS MAN,
INDEED!



IT IS PERFECT... PERFECT!
I CAN LOOT THE COUNTRY-
SIDE OF RICHES WITH THIS
BEAST... AND NONE WILL
EVER SUSPECT ME! WITH
MY BRAIN AND HIS BRAWN
WE SHALL BE
UNSEATABLE!

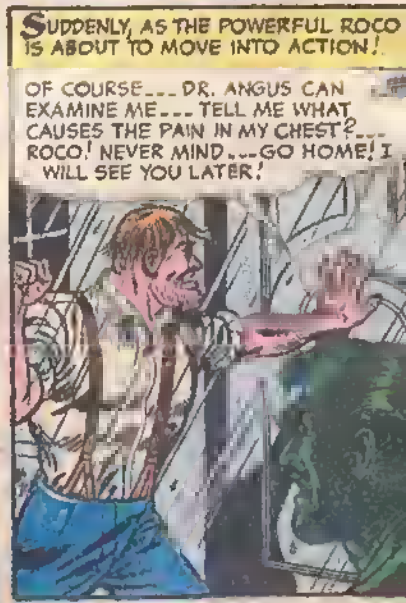
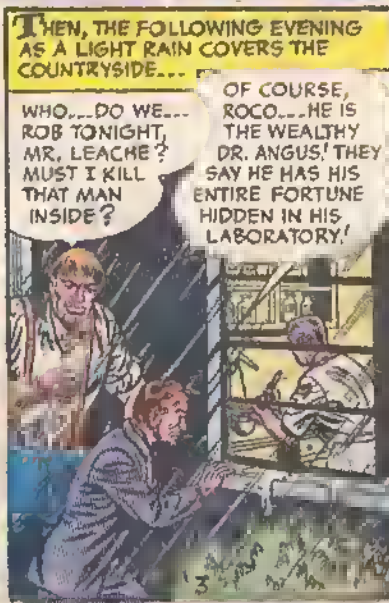
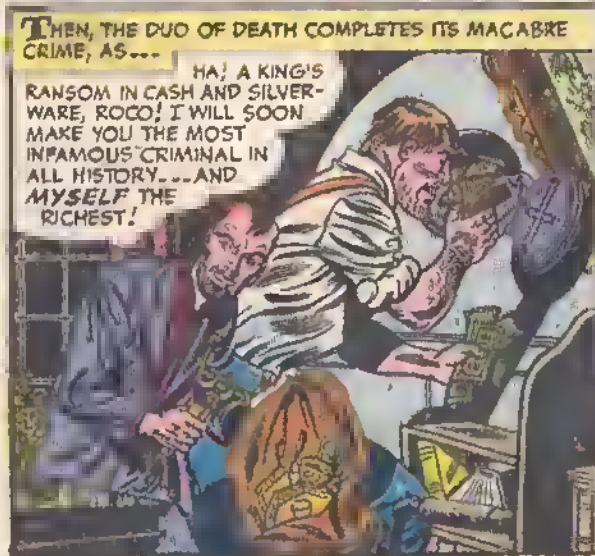
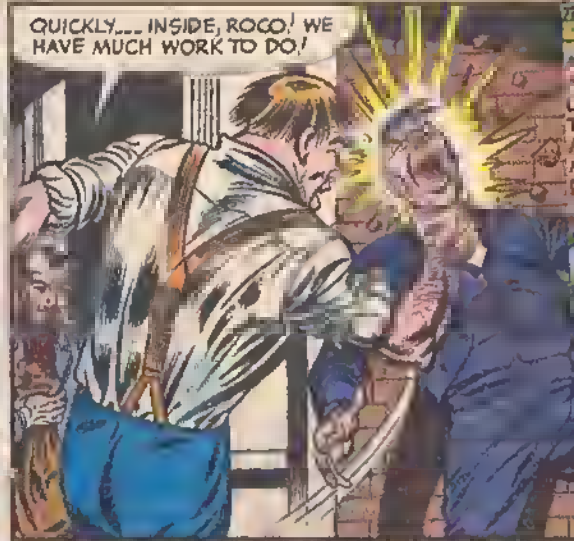


THAT EVENING, TWO SHADOWY FIGURES
CREEP UP TO A HUGE ESTATE!

YOU... HURT AGAIN,
MR. LEACHE!

OH...
NEVER MIND!
BE READY, YOU
FOOL!



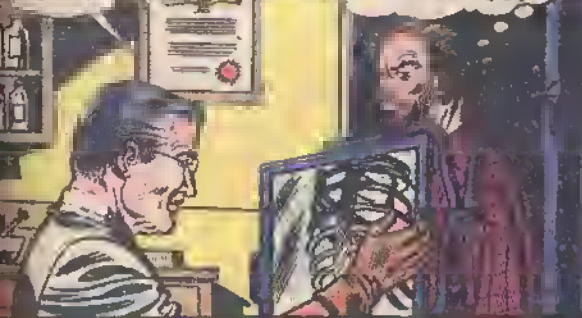


AND SHORTLY, WITHIN DR. ANGUS' HOUSE... FINE! I'LL

A FLUOROSCOPE PICTURE AND A CARDIAGRAPH SHOULD TELL US WHAT'S BEEN CAUSING THOSE PAINS IN YOUR CHEST, MR. LEACHE! IT WILL TAKE ME A DAY OR SO TO DIAGNOSE YOUR CASE!

TELEPHONE YOU FOR THE RESULTS DAY AFTER TOMORROW!

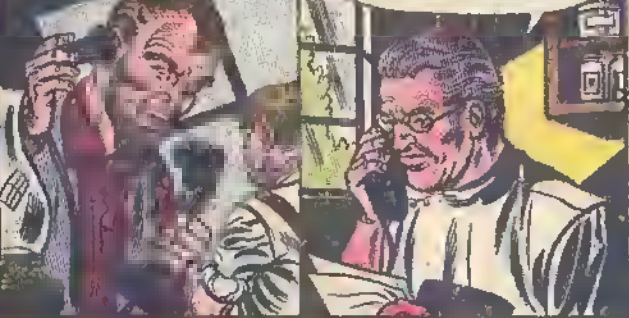
HA! AND AFTER THAT, YOU OLD GOAT, I'LL COME BACK TO SEE YOU WITH...ROCO!



BUT TWO DAYS LATER, THE SMILE LEAVES LEACHE'S FACE AS HE SPEAKS WITH DR. ANGUS!

WHY SHOULD I BOTHER COMING TO YOUR OFFICE TO HEAR YOUR DIAGNOSIS? TELL ME NOW...AT ONCE! I DEMAND IT!

VERY WELL! I'M... SORRY TO TELL YOU THIS, MR. LEACHE...BUT YOU HAVE BUT A FEW DAYS OR POSSIBLY WEEKS TO LIVE! MY EXAMINATION SHOWS YOUR HEART IS DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR!



ICY FINGERS OF FEAR CLUTCH THE MAN WHO DEALS IN DEATH...THE BLOOD DRAINS FROM HIS FACE, AS...

WHEN THE TIME COMES, I MAY BE ABLE TO EASE THE GREAT PAIN YOU WILL SUFFER...THAT IS ALL I CAN DO!

P-PAIN...I'M GOING TO SUFFER...



THEN, WILD, UNCONTROLLABLE ANGER RACES THROUGH THE KILLER'S BODY...

CHEATED! BETRAYED! SWINDLED! MY WEALTH IS USELESS TO ME WHEN I'M DEAD!

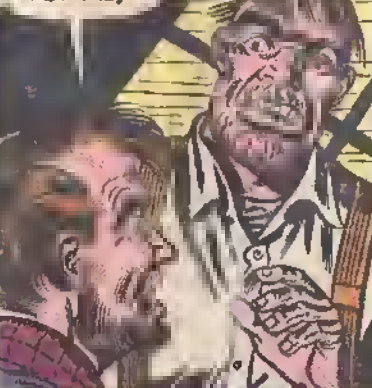


MR. LEACHE... YOU IN TROUBLE? ROCO HELP...

YOU BIG OAF OF A CREATURE... WHAT COULD YOU DO TO HELP A MAN DOOMED TO DIE! HA! DEATH WAS THE ONLY THING I COULD NOT OUTWIT!



BUT WAIT...PERHAPS I CAN OUTWIT DEATH ALSO! YES...YES, ROCO, YOU CAN HELP! YOU CAN...KILL ME! OF COURSE! ONE DAY, WITHIN THE NEXT WEEK, YOU CAN SLAY ME! I SHALL BE ANOTHER POOR VICTIM OF YOUR GREAT HANDS... AND EVERYONE SHALL FEEL SORRY FOR ME!



FLAMES OF MADNESS LICK AT THE LEACHE'S MIND AS HE UNFOLDS HIS PLAN TO OUTWIT DEATH ITSELF!

I MUST NEVER KNOW WHEN IT HAPPENS, DO YOU UNDERSTAND! WITHIN THE WEEK... WHEN I AM LEAST SUSPECTING IT YOU WILL STRIKE, EH, ROCO! HA! I SHALL DIE A RESPECTED MAN AND CHEAT DEATH OF THE... SHE SEEKS TO WILL ME!

I... WILL DO ANYTHING...YOU WANT ME TO, MR. LEACHE! I WILL... KILL YOU...LIKE THE OTHERS...WHEN YOU DO NOT...EXPECT IT!



THUS, DOES THE BIZARRE GAME OF LIFE AND DEATH BEGIN! TWO DAYS PASS AND...

THE VILLAGE WILL FEEL SORRY FOR ME... HA! I WILL HAVE A RESPECTED FUNERAL... ANOTHER VICTIM OF THE HORRIBLE FIEND!



WHA...? QUICKSAND! YIIIIIIII!



FRANTICALLY, THE MAN OF MURDER SCREAMS FOR HIS MONSTER...

I'M SINKING... NO! NO! I DON'T WANT TO DIE NOW! HELP! HELP! ROCO! ROCO!



LEACHE'S VOICE WAVERS AND CRACKS AS HE CRIES OUT!

ROCO! ROCO! HURRY... HURRY!



AND WHEN EMMET LEACHE IS DRAGGED FROM THE BRINK OF A TERRIBLE DEATH BY ROCO...

AWWWWK ERRRWWWK

G-GOOD GRIEF! I-I'VE LOST MY VOICE FROM ALL THAT SHOUTING!



AS ROCO CARRIES HIS MASTER BACK...

DR. ANGUS! WHAT IN THUNDER DOES HE WANT OF ME?

MR. LEACHE... THANK GOODNESS I FOUND YOU! THERE'S BEEN A TERRIBLE MISTAKE! YOU AREN'T GOING TO DIE... MY NURSE MISTAKENLY HANDED ME THE WRONG FLUOROSCOPE PICTURE! YOU'VE GOT A HEALTHY HEART!



MMFFFFFMM BAH! I CAN'T GET MY VOICE BACK... BUT WHO CARES! HA! I'VE REALLY OUTWITTED DEATH NOW! I'M GOING TO LIVE!

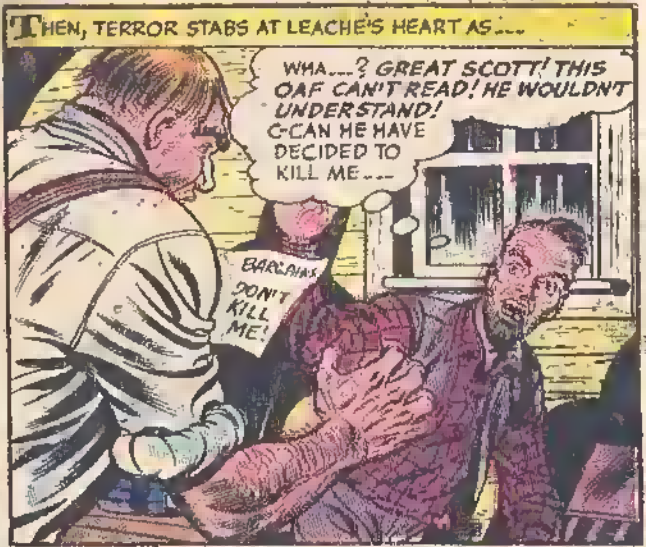
IT WAS A GHASTLY ERROR... NO WONDER YOU'RE SPEECHLESS WITH SHOCK, MR. LEACHE! WELL, I'LL RUN ALONG AND LET YOU COMPOSE YOURSELF!





MMFFFFFMMMM
CURSE IT... I CAN'T
EVEN SPEAK
ENOUGH TO TELL
ROCO HE DOESN'T
HAVE TO KILL ME!
I'LL JUST WRITE
HIM A NOTE TO
INFORM HIM!

DON'T WORRY...
MR. LEACHE...
I WILL KILL
YOU... JUST
LIKE YOU
WANTED
ME TO!

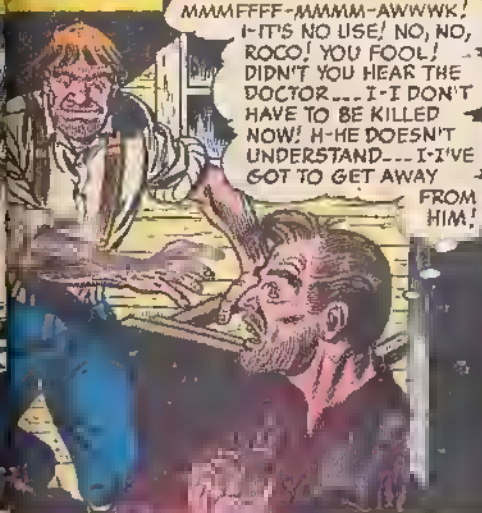


THEN, TERROR STABS AT LEACHE'S HEART AS...

WHA...? GREAT SCOTT! THIS
OAF CAN'T READ! HE WOULDN'T
UNDERSTAND!
G-CAN HE HAVE
DECIDED TO
KILL ME...

BARCINAS
DON'T
KILL
ME!

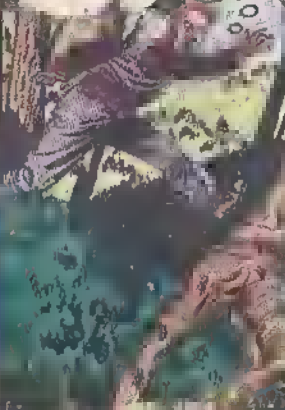
DESPERATELY, FRANTICALLY LEACHE STRIVES
TO UTTER THE PRECIOUS WORDS THAT CAN
SAVE HIS LIFE!



MMFFFFF-MMMM-AWWWK!
I-IT'S NO USE! NO, NO,
ROCO! YOU FOOL!
DIDN'T YOU HEAR THE
DOCTOR... I-I DON'T
HAVE TO BE KILLED
NOW! H-HE DOESN'T
UNDERSTAND... I-I'VE
GOT TO GET AWAY

FROM
HIM!

P-PERHAPS HE HASN'T
PICKED THE TIME YET!
YES... THAT'S IT... I'LL
RUN TO THE VILLAGE!
I'LL BE ABLE TO WRITE
A NOTE AND EXPLAIN MY
PROBLEM TO THE TOWNS-
FOLK!



FOR AN HOUR THE FRENZIED MAN
RUNS TOWARD TOWN... AND BEHIND HIM,
UNSEEN, STALKS HIS ASSASSIN...



H-HE'S NOT
FOLLOWING ME!
I-I'VE ESCAPED!
ROCO IS
WAITING FOR
ANOTHER
DAY TO KILL
ME!

I... MUST OBEY
MR. LEACHE... HE
WOULD NOT WANT
ME TO DISOBEY
HIS ORDERS! IT IS
GOOD TIME NOW...
HE DOES NOT KNOW
I AM FOLLOWING
HIM!

THEN, A MOMENT LATER, AS EMMET LEACHE PASSES THE
CLUMP OF TREES...



ROCO! NO, NO!
DON'T DO IT!
ROCO!
YAAAARRRGH!

I KEPT MY PROMISE... ROCO
KILL YOU BY SURPRISE, MR.
LEACHE!

AND AS
EMMET
LEACHE'S
BODY
SLIPS
TO THE
GROUND,
A BULLET
FROM
ABOVE
PUTS
AN END
TO THE
CAREER
OF THE
DUO
OF
DEATH!



Y-YOU GOT THE BRUTE,
JOHN... BUT I'M AFRAID
WE WERE TOO LATE...
IT LOOKS LIKE HE'S
KILLED ANOTHER
VICTIM!

POOR DEVIL...
I WONDER WHO
IT WAS THIS
TIME!

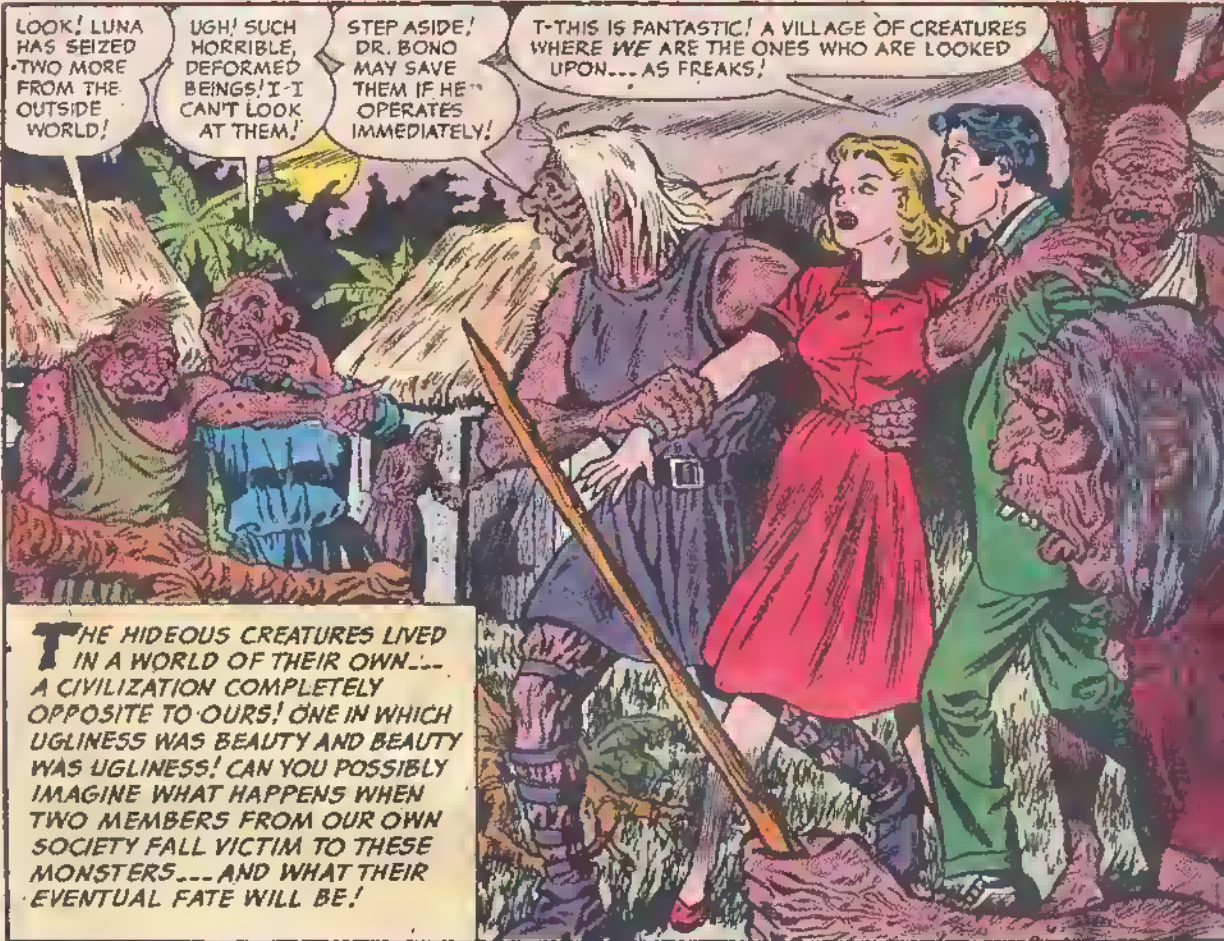
THE HAMLET OF HORROR

LOOK! LUNA HAS SEIZED TWO MORE FROM THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

UGH! SUCH HORRIBLE, DEFORMED BEINGS! I-I CAN'T LOOK AT THEM!

STEP ASIDE! DR. BONO MAY SAVE THEM IF HE OPERATES IMMEDIATELY!

T-THIS IS FANTASTIC! A VILLAGE OF CREATURES WHERE WE ARE THE ONES WHO ARE LOOKED UPON... AS FREAKS!

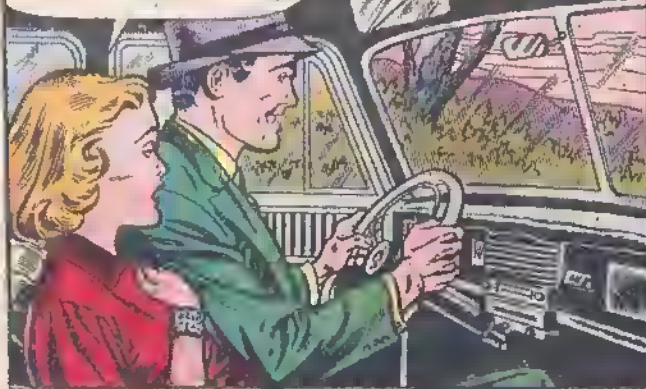


THE HIDEOUS CREATURES LIVED IN A WORLD OF THEIR OWN... A CIVILIZATION COMPLETELY OPPOSITE TO OURS! ONE IN WHICH UGLINESS WAS BEAUTY AND BEAUTY WAS UGLINESS! CAN YOU POSSIBLY IMAGINE WHAT HAPPENS WHEN TWO MEMBERS FROM OUR OWN SOCIETY FALL VICTIM TO THESE MONSTERS... AND WHAT THEIR EVENTUAL FATE WILL BE!

IN THE DEEP SOUTH DOCTOR JOHN AMES AND HIS WIFE DRIVE ALONG A STRANGE, LONELY BACK ROAD!

JOHN, YOU'VE BEEN DRIVING ALONG THIS BACK ROAD FOR HOURS! PLEASE... LET'S RETURN TO THE HIGHWAY... I-I FEEL NERVOUS HERE!

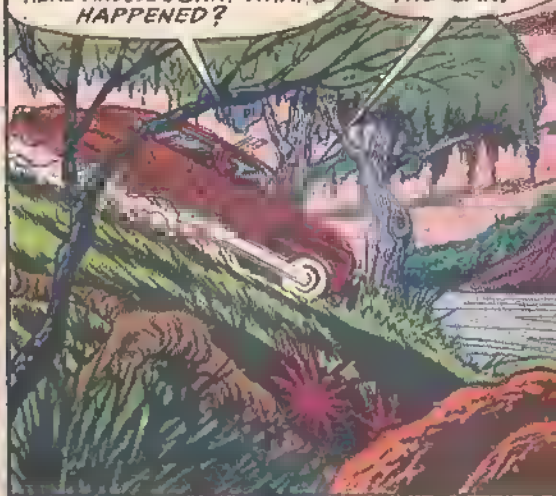
NONSENSE, DARLING! THIS IS THE REAL THRILL OF TOURING... SEEING THE BACK COUNTRY!



SUDDENLY...

I KNOW, BUT IT'S SO EERIE HERE AND... JOHN! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

T-THE BRAKES! I-I CAN'T STOP THE CAR!



DOWN... DOWN TOWARD THE OMINOUS RIVER AHEAD SPEEDS THE CAR! FINALLY...

GOOD GRIEF! JUMP, DORIS! JUMP CLEAR!



THE TWO TOURISTS FLOUNDER IN THE WATER... FRANTICALLY FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL...

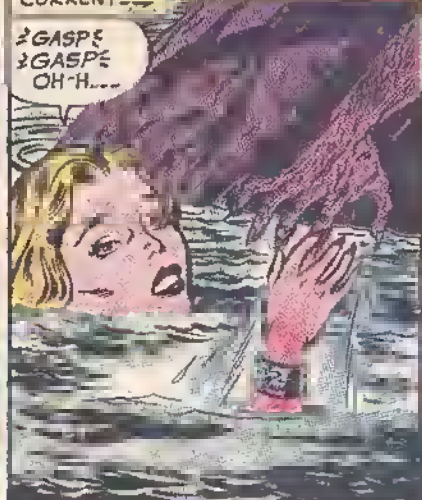
I-I CAN'T MAKE IT...

KEEP FIGHTING... DON'T GIVE UP, DORIS!



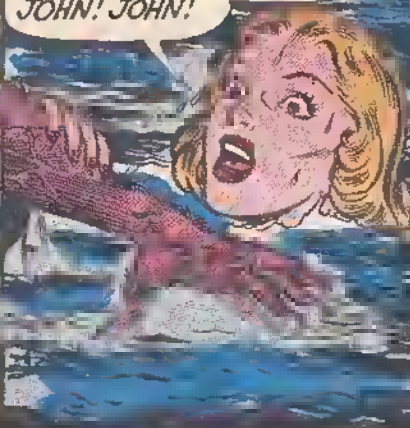
THEN, AS THE GASPING WOMAN IS ABOUT TO SURRENDER TO THE CURRENT...

2 GASPS
2 GASPS
OH-H...



STARK HORROR SUDDENLY FILLS DORIS AMES' FACE AS...

EEEEEEK! LET ME GO! JOHN! JOHN!



THE WATER CLOSES IN UPON THE WOMAN WHO PREFERS DEATH TO THE TERROR BEFORE HER! ABRUPTLY HANDS CLUTCH AT HER HAIR AND...

UGH! SUCH HORRIBLE, DEFORMED BEINGS!

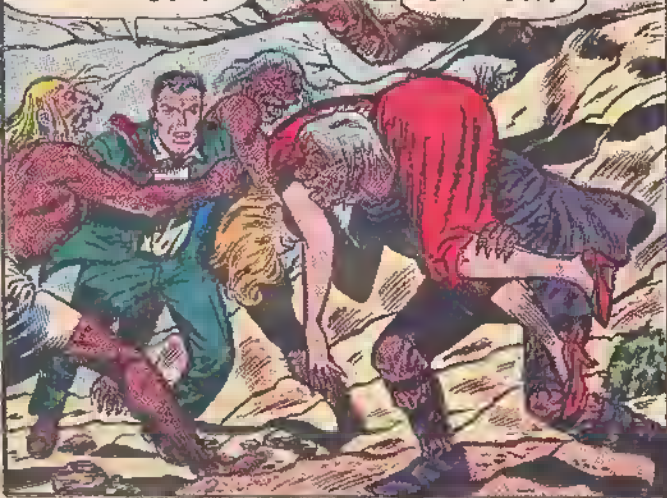
NEVERTHELESS, WE MUST SAVE THEM!

G-GREAT HANNAH! W-WHAT MONSTERS WHO CAN THEY BE? WHAT CAN THEY BE?



PUT HER DOWN, YOU FIEND! DON'T TOUCH HER... Y-YOU'RE FOUL!

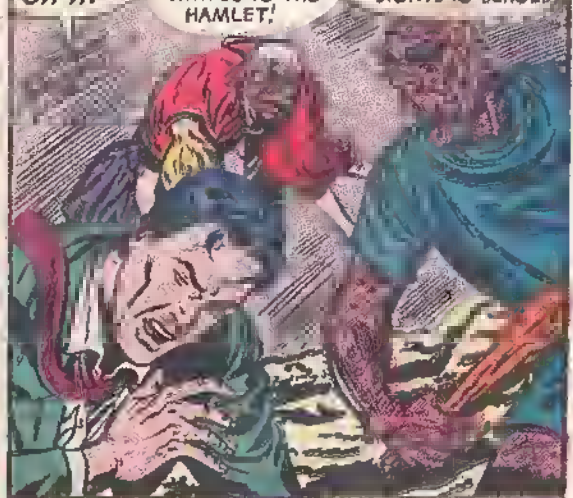
QUIET THE EXCITED ONE! WE MUST HELP THEM FOR THEIR OWN GOOD!



Y-YOU ANIMALS... OH-H!

GOOD! WE WILL BRING THEM BACK WITH US TO THE HAMLET!

YES, LUNA... UGH! WHAT SORRY SIGHTS TO BEHOLD!



THE WEIRD, CONTORTED CREATURES MOVE OFF WITH JOHN AND DORIS! FINALLY, HOURS LATER, THEY REACH THEIR EERIE DESTINATION!

LUNA! WHAT HAVE YOU THERE... MORE OF THE UGLY ONES FROM OUTSIDE?

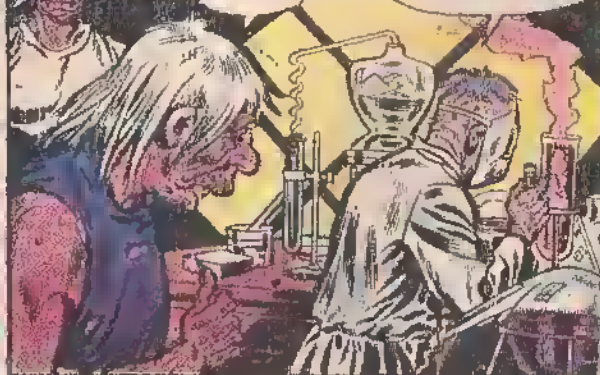
YES! THESE TWO ARE THE MOST HORRIBLE WE HAVE YET BROUGHT BACK! STEP ASIDE... DR. BONO MUST SEE THEM AT ONCE!



SHORTLY, IN THE COMMUNITY DOCTOR'S LABORATORY...

DR. BONO! WE HAVE BROUGHT YOU TWO MORE PATIENTS... BUT I FEAR THESE ARE BEYOND EVEN YOUR HELP!

AH, LUNA... YOU MUST NOT GIVE UP SO QUICKLY! I WILL EXAMINE THEM IN A MOMENT!



NOW WHERE ARE THEY... O-OH! YOU DID NOT EXAGGERATE! THEY ARE INDEED HIDEOUS, LUNA!

NO! NO! I-I CAN'T LOOK!

GASPE



YES, THEY ARE PARTICULARLY UGLY! HOW COULD SUCH THINGS EXIST? LUNA! WE MUST ACT QUICKLY IF WE ARE TO SAVE THEM!

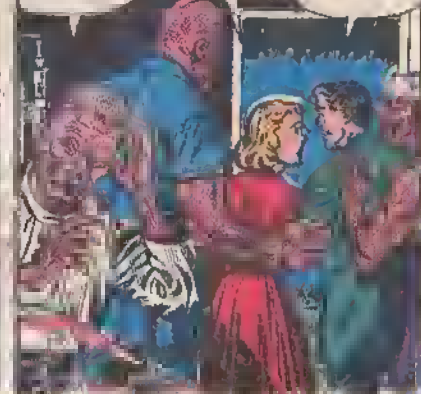
YES, DOCTOR!



TOMORROW I WILL OPERATE ON THE... GIRL! NOW TAKE THEM TO THE CONFINEMENT BUILDING! I-I CAN'T BEAR THE SIGHT OF THEM ANY LONGER!

O-OPERATE! JOHN... AM I GOING MAD?

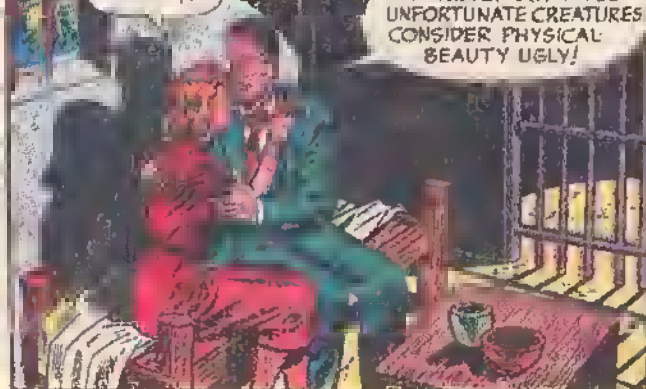
STEADY, DORIS...



IN THE DAMP STILLNESS OF THEIR CELL DOCTOR JOHN AMES AND HIS WIFE ATTEMPT TO ANALYZE THEIR FANTASTIC EXPERIENCE!

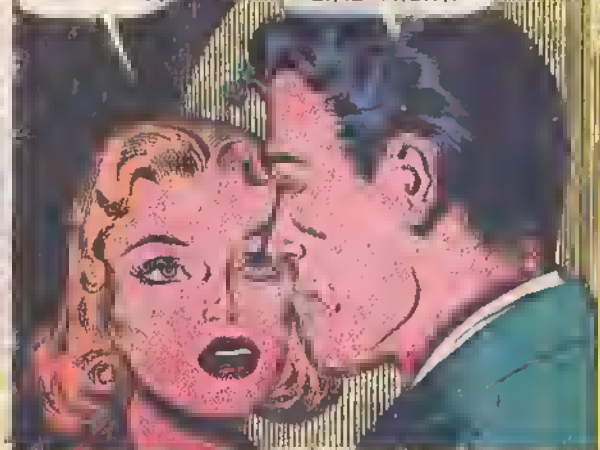
IT MUST BE A DREAM! THIS COULDN'T HAPPEN TO US, JOHN! PLEASE! PLEASE TELL ME IT'S ALL A BAD DREAM!

I'M AFRAID THIS IS NO NIGHTMARE, DORIS! WE'VE STUMBLER UPON A CIVILIZATION... IN REVERSE! THESE UNFORTUNATE CREATURES CONSIDER PHYSICAL BEAUTY UGLY!



I-I SEE! THEN... IN THEIR EYES WE ARE THE CREATURES, THE FREAKS!

EXACTLY! AND JUST AS OUR PLASTIC SURGEONS FIX DISTORTED FEATURES THESE CREATURES INTEND TO MAKE US LOOK LIKE THEM!



JOHN! YOU DON'T MEAN THEY'RE GOING TO OPERATE ON US AND... OH, NO!

WE'LL JUST HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE, DORIS! WE'RE AT THEIR MERCY!

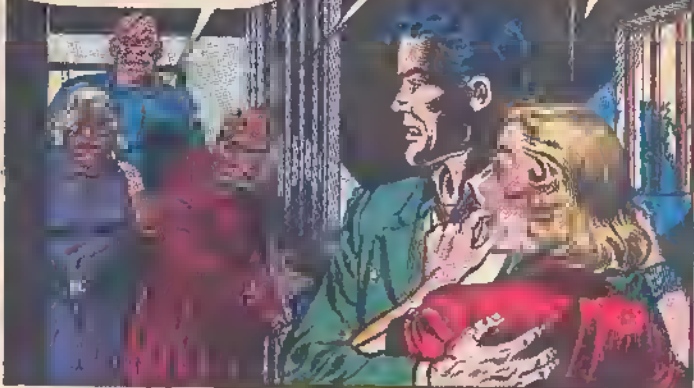


TERROR STRICKEN, THE HELPLESS PAIR WAIT THROUGH THE LONG, DARK NIGHT! THEN, THE FOLLOWING MORNING...

HURRY, JAILER! DR. BONO IS AWAITING THE FEMALE IN THE OPERATING ROOM!

HEHEHEHE... INDEED!

J-JOHN! DON'T LET THEM TAKE ME!



LEAVE HER ALONE! YOU CAN'T DO THIS TERRIBLE THING... UGHHH!

SILENCE, FOOL! WE ONLY SEEK TO HELP YOU BOTH! YOU WILL THANK US WHEN IT IS OVER!



NO! NO!

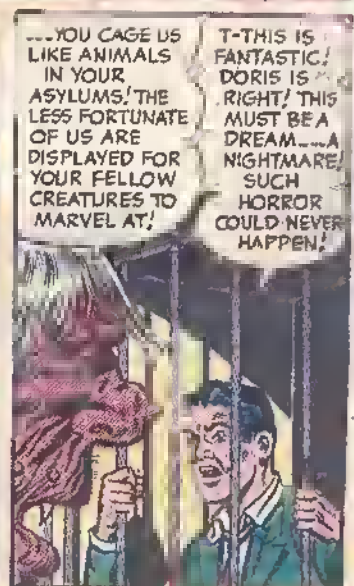
PLEASE DON'T DO THIS THING! GIVE YOURSELVES UP TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD! THEY WILL HELP YOU!

SURRENDER TO A CIVILIZATION OF FREAKS! NONSENSE! WE KNOW WHAT THEY DO TO NORMAL ONES SUCH AS WE ARE!



...YOU CAGE US LIKE ANIMALS IN YOUR ASYLUMS! THE LESS FORTUNATE OF US ARE DISPLAYED FOR YOUR FELLOW CREATURES TO MARVEL AT!

T-THIS IS FANTASTIC! DORIS IS RIGHT! THIS MUST BE A DREAM... A NIGHTMARE! SUCH HORROR COULD NEVER HAPPEN!



AS THE DAYS SLIP INTO WEEKS JOHN AMES' LIFE BECOMES A LIVING HELL!

WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO HER?

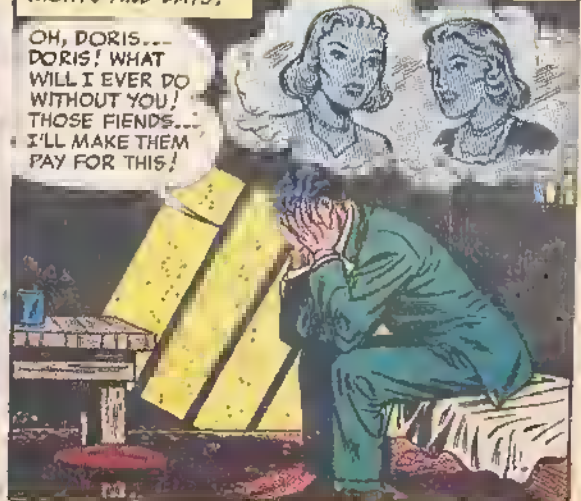
POOR DORIS... SOBE... WHY DID THIS HAVE TO HAPPEN?

I'LL... NEVER SEE HER AGAIN! THEY'VE KILLED HER!



VISIONS OF HIS WIFE'S BEAUTY FILL JOHN'S THOUGHTS THROUGH THE LONG HOURS OF THE NIGHTS AND DAYS!

OH, DORIS... DORIS! WHAT WILL I EVER DO WITHOUT YOU! THOSE FIENDS... I'LL MAKE THEM PAY FOR THIS!



FINALLY, ON THE FIFTH WEEK THE CREAK OF A DOOR BRINGS AMES TO HIS FEET!

HEE, HEE, UGLY ONE... THE OPERATION IS OVER! BONO HAS SAVED YOUR MATE FROM THE FATE THAT AWAITED HER!

D-DORIS! C-CAN THAT BE DORIS UNDER THE HOOD?



SLOWLY, THE HOOD IS RAISED AND A CRY OF HORROR BREAKS FROM JOHN AMES' LIPS!

G-GREAT MERCY... THAT BRACELET... IT IS DORIS!

YES, JOHN! IT IS YOUR WIFE! I AM VERY HAPPY NOW!

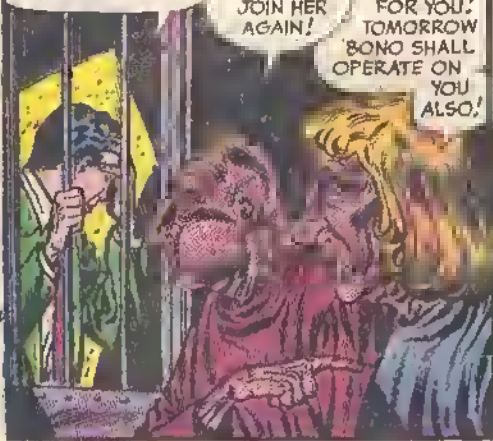
HEE, HEE! AND SOON YOU TOO SHALL HAVE A BRAND NEW, BEAUTIFUL FACE, UGLY ONE!



T-THE FIENDS... THEY'VE STOLEN HER MIND AS WELL AS HER FACE! W-WHAT CAN I DO? WHAT CAN I DO?

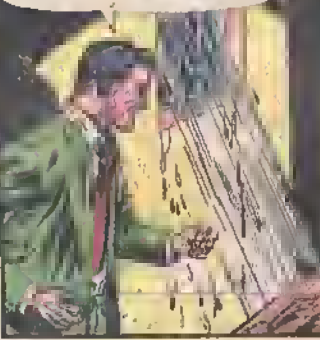
DO NOT GRIEVE, HOMELY ONE... SOON YOU WILL JOIN HER AGAIN!

YES, DARLING... I SHALL BE CLOSE BY YOUR CELL WAITING FOR YOU! TOMORROW BONO SHALL OPERATE ON YOU ALSO!



THAT NIGHT, A HEAVY RAIN FALLS INTO AMES' CELL...THE DOCTOR'S MIND REELS UNDER THE IMPACT OF THE HORROR HE HAS SEEN!

IT'S MADNESS...MADNESS! SOMEHOW, SOME WAY, I MUST DO SOMETHING! I MUST ESCAPE... GET DORIS TO A DOCTOR! HMMM, I WONDER...



DOCTOR AMES' STOOPS TO HIS KNEES... HIS HANDS DIG DEEP INTO THE SOFT CLAY THE RAIN HAS MADE!

YES, YES... WITH THIS CLAY AND THE STRAW THATCHWORK FROM THE ROOF I MAY BE ABLE TO DO IT! I-I MUST!



AN HOUR LATER, THE GROTESQUE JAILER IS STUNNED AS...

WHAT ARE YOU SHOUTING FOR, UGLY ONE... YIIII! YOU ARE NO LONGER UGLY! YOU ARE... HANDSOME!

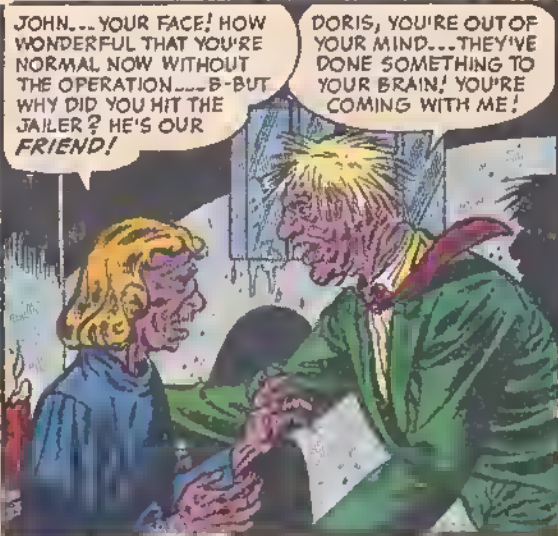
YES, YES, YOU FOOL! A MIRACLE HAS HAPPENED! NOW I'M ONE OF YOU... LET ME OUT! LET ME BE WITH MY WIFE AS YOU PROMISED!



THEN, AS THE STARTLED JAILER OPENS THE CELL DOOR...

THERE, YOU DOG! I'M FREE OF YOUR ACCURSED CELL!

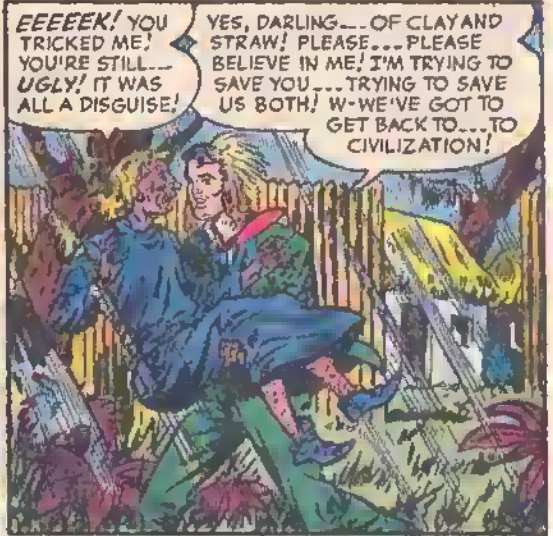




JOHN... YOUR FACE! HOW WONDERFUL THAT YOU'RE NORMAL NOW WITHOUT THE OPERATION... B-BUT WHY DID YOU HIT THE JAILER? HE'S OUR FRIEND!

DORIS, YOU'RE OUT OF YOUR MIND... THEY'VE DONE SOMETHING TO YOUR BRAIN! YOU'RE COMING WITH ME!

INTO THE POURING RAIN JOHN AMES CARRIES HIS STRUGGLING WIFE! FEAR GIVES STRENGTH TO HIS LIMBS AS HE RUNS FROM THE TERRIBLE HAMLET!



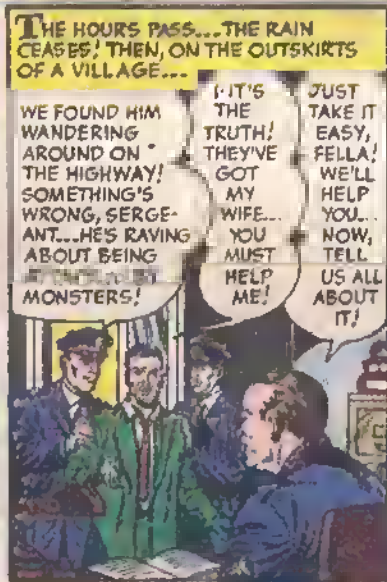
EEEEEEK! YOU TRICKED ME! YOU'RE STILL... UGLY! IT WAS ALL A DISGUISE!

YES, DARLING... OF CLAY AND STRAW! PLEASE... PLEASE BELIEVE IN ME! I'M TRYING TO SAVE YOU... TRYING TO SAVE US BOTH! W-WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK TO... TO CIVILIZATION!



MILE AFTER MILE DOCTOR AMES WANDERS THROUGH THE GRIM COUNTRY-SIDE! FINALLY, COMPLETELY EXHAUSTED, HE LOSES HIS FOOTING AND...

DORIS! DORIS! COME BACK... YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING! WE'VE GOT TO FIND OUR WAY OUT... PLEASE, PLEASE COME BACK!



THE HOURS PASS... THE RAIN CEASES! THEN, ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF A VILLAGE...

WE FOUND HIM WANDERING AROUND ON THE HIGHWAY! SOMETHING'S WRONG, SERGEANT... HE'S RAVING ABOUT BEING EATEN BY MONSTERS!

IT'S THE TRUTH! THEY'VE GOT MY WIFE... YOU MUST HELP ME!

JUST TAKE IT EASY, FELLA! WE'LL HELP YOU... NOW, TELL US ALL ABOUT IT!

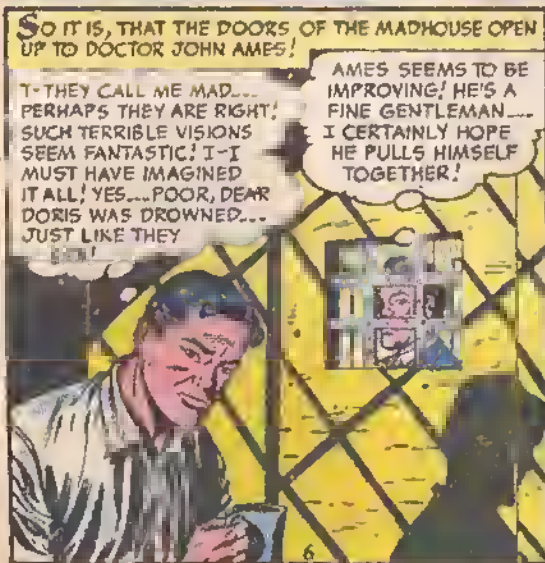


WHEN JOHN AMES HAS LED THE POLICE TO THE SCENE OF HIS ACCIDENT...

HMM! NO WONDER THE POOR FELLOW'S GONE MAD! EVIDENTLY HIS WIFE WAS WASHED DOWN STREAM AFTER THE CRASH!

NO! NO! MONSTERS GRABBED US BOTH! YOU COULD HAVE SEEN THEIR FOOTPRINTS... THERE... BUT THE RAIN WASHED THEM AWAY!

POOR DEVIL... THE TRAGEDY HAS DRIVEN HIM MAD AS A HATTER!



SO IT IS, THAT THE DOORS OF THE MADHOUSE OPEN UP TO DOCTOR JOHN AMES!

T- THEY CALL ME MAD... PERHAPS THEY ARE RIGHT! SUCH TERRIBLE VISIONS SEEM FANTASTIC! I-I MUST HAVE IMAGINED IT ALL! YES... POOR, DEAR DORIS WAS DROWNED... JUST LIKE THEY SAY!

AMES SEEMS TO BE IMPROVING! HE'S A FINE GENTLEMAN... I CERTAINLY HOPE HE PULLS HIMSELF TOGETHER!

AND IN THE MONTHS TO FOLLOW JOHN AMES DOES PULL HIMSELF TOGETHER! SOON THE AUTHORITIES DECIDE HE CAN BE RELEASED!



WE FEEL YOU'VE WON THE BATTLE, DR. AMES! TRY TO KEEP DARK THOUGHTS FROM YOUR MIND AND TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THE OUTSIDE WORLD!

THANK YOU, THANK YOU! YOU'VE ALL BEEN WONDERFUL TO ME! GOODBYE!

KIN STATION

BUT AS THE DAYS PASS, DOCTOR AMES CANNOT KEEP THE VISION OF HIS LOVELY WIFE FROM HIS MIND!

NO, NO! MAD THEY MIGHT CALL ME BUT I CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS ALL A NIGHTMARE! I'VE GOT TO KEEP SEARCHING FOR DORIS! SOMEWHERE... OUT IN THAT DREADED COUNTRY-SIDE SHE MAY BE WAITING!



NIGHT AND DAY, THE HALF CRAZED DOCTOR ROAMS THE WOODS! THEN...

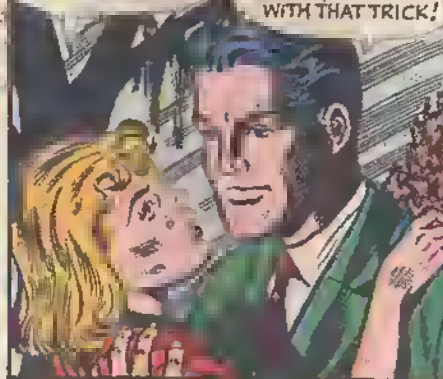
D-DORIS! DORIS! I'VE FOUND HER! S-SHE'S NORMAL... SHE'S... HERSELF!

J-JOHN...



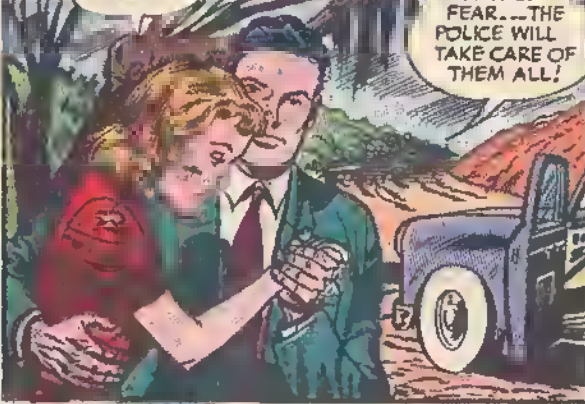
OH, DARLING... IT WAS TERRIBLE! THEY TRICKED YOU! ONE OF THOSE TERRIBLE CREATURES PRETENDED TO BE ME! THEY... STOLE MY BRACELET SO YOU'D BELIEVE IT!

THE FIENDS! THEIR TWISTED BRAINS WANTED VENGEANCE AGAINST US BECAUSE OF OUR NORMAL GOOD LOOKS! THEY SOUGHT TO DRIVE US MAD WITH THAT TRICK!



I-IT WAS A MIRACLE I MANAGED TO ESCAPE WHEN THEY OPENED MY CELL DOOR TO FEED ME! I PLACED A LOCK OF MY HAIR IN THE CATCH... OH, JOHN, TAKE ME AWAY FROM THIS TERRIBLE PLACE!

YES, DARLING! THERE'S NO NEED FOR FURTHER FEAR... THE POLICE WILL TAKE CARE OF THEM ALL!



SHORTLY, AS AMES AND HIS WIFE PLEAD WITH THE POLICE...

NOW, DOCTOR AMES, YOU'VE BEEN A SICK MAN! I DON'T KNOW WHO THIS WOMAN IS BUT YOU KNOW YOUR WIFE DROWNED IN AN AUTO ACCIDENT!

JUST FORGET ALL ABOUT THESE VISIONS YOU'VE HAD!

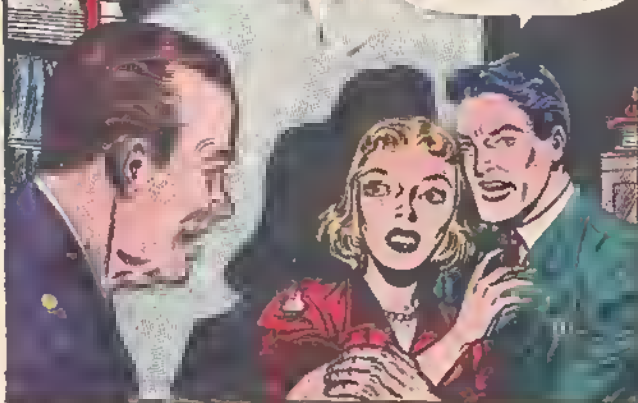
GOOD GRIEF! I TELL YOU THIS IS MY WIFE AND THERE ARE MONSTROUS DEVILS OUT THERE IN THE WOODS! YOU MUST BELIEVE US!



NOW, DOCTOR, YOU KNOW IN YOUR DESCRIPTION OF YOUR WIFE YOU DEFINITELY TOLD US SHE ALWAYS WORE A VALUABLE SILVER BRACELET! THIS WOMAN HAS NONE!

BUT...

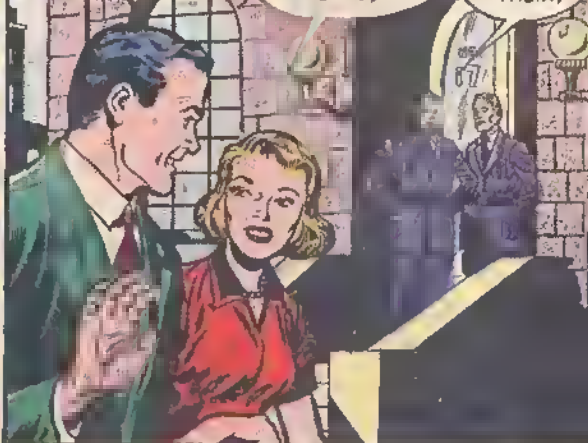
WAIT, DEAR... IF WE PERSIST THEY MAY PUT ME BACK IN THE MENTAL INSTITUTION! WE'D... BETTER GO!



WE'LL JUST FORGET IT EVER HAPPENED, DARLING! AND WE'LL DRIVE BACK HOME!

YES, JOHN... AND THIS TIME WE WON'T TAKE ANY BACK ROADS, WILL WE!

MAD AS MARCH HARES... BOTH OF THEM!



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FISH BAIT
IN A TUBE

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* SECRET FORMULA

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FISH LIKE THIS WITH FAST-BITE MAGIC FISH BAIT?



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NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

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MURDER TRAP

THE thought of murder became cold decision in Paul Dexter's mind the afternoon they found the treasure chest. He stood back, cold and calculating, while his two partners, Jameson and Rhodes, bent excitedly over the spot their probe rod had indicated. Again and again Rhodes jammed the long steel rod into the soft earth of the swamp island until it thudded duly off the hard object deep underneath.

"That's it," he shouted wildly at last. "It's rectangular, two feet wide by three feet long—the exact size of the pirate chest as recorded on the map. And it's only three feet down. By tomorrow night we'll have it out and a million dollars in pirate loot will be ours."

Standing back, Paul Dexter raised his eyes to the sinister green wall of the great swamp, pressing like an ever-present threat against the tiny island of solid earth. They had come there a week before, posing as scientists studying swamp life. They had built the small but sturdy shack and begun the foot-by-foot search of the island with the probe rod. And today their efforts had been rewarded.

He looked with new calculation at these two men whom Fate had joined with him. Tom Rhodes had owned the ancient map showing where a pirate had buried a million dollars in loot on the island in the great swamp. Jameson had supplied the money for the search.

Dexter had been given a partnership because his degree in science gave them an excuse to live in the swamp without betraying their real purpose to the swamp dwellers. And now it came to him with a new sharpness that, with these other two dead, the treasure would be all his.

He looked up at the shadows of night, already long across the dismal wilderness. Here a cottonmouth arrowed across the sluggish water that surrounded them. Somewhere close by an alligator bellowed. Night was closing in and with it would come *The Sobbing Thing*!

They had heard whispers of it and, that first night, they had seen it. Now Paul tried to guess what it was. They had seen it, true, but only as a shape of fearful immensity, moving with a kind

of oozing crawl, slipping around and around the island as it gave forth the anguished sobbing sound that had caused its name. What was it? Some prehistoric monster, surviving in the eternal land of quivering earth? Some horror from another dimension, another world? Whatever it was, it had kept them awake night after night as it circled their tiny island, but never once had it set foot on the solid ground itself. They had built their cabin solid and fashioned heavy bars for doors and windows, so they felt safe.

Now suddenly aware that the dreaded night was falling, Paul Dexter got his idea. The others were intent on the treasure. Paul whirled, ran to the shack and slammed the door. From inside he barred it and barred the windows. Then, lighting his pipe with trembling hands, he waited.

It was half an hour before Rhodes discovered the deepening shadows. Paul heard him say, "We'd better get inside, Tom, before the Sobbing Thing comes." And then his wild, frightened yell of discovery. "The door and windows are barred. Paul, for the love of mercy, let us in."

Dexter sat quietly, not answering. He heard them hammer on door and windows. Heard them plead and curse him as the darkness fell. And then he heard the soft, rising sound of sobbing that marked the advent of *The Sobbing Thing*. He heard their prayers and curses change to shrieks of awful horror. Manning's yell rose and broke suddenly, and then Rhodes screamed, "Paul! For heaven's sake, if you must kill me, shoot me. Don't let that . . ." And then the silence. The awful, trembling, sobbing silence. And then a faint, shuffling noise. A stench of ancient ooze, a creaking as *something* pressed against the door.

Then Paul Dexter knew what he had done. He had doomed his two partners to death—but in so doing, he had doomed himself. The *Sobbing Thing* had at last tasted human flesh and it was no longer content to stay in the swamp. Now it was hungry, pressing at the door. He had fed it, had fanned its horrid appetite. With bulging eyes and lips too frozen to utter the scream locked in his throat, he saw the door began to bend and then to break. . . .

DEATH'S VENGEANCE



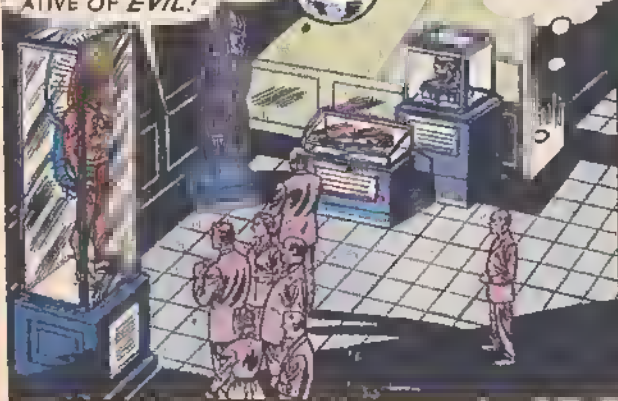
ONLY ARTHUR DUNSTER KNEW THE TERRIBLE SECRET OF THE RELICS IN THE MUSEUM BASEMENT! AND HIS LIPS WERE SEALED... FOR NO ONE WOULD BELIEVE THE FIENDISH PLOT THE LONG DEAD CURIOS WERE HATCHING THERE! YES, ONLY A MAD MAN WOULD BELIEVE HIS STORY... AND DUNSTER WAS DOOMED!

IN A SMALL ROOM IN A WING OF THE CITY MUSEUM CURATOR, ARTHUR DUNSTER, FROWNS AT THOSE WHO SCOFF AT HIS RELICS!

HA, HA! HOW ABSURD! IMAGINE THE MUSEUM EXPECTING FOLKS TO BELIEVE THESE RELICS ACTUALLY ARE REPRESENTATIVE OF EVIL!

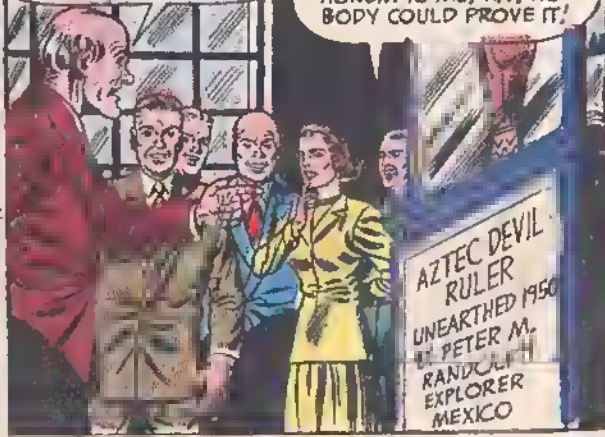
CERTAINLY! IT'S A CHEAP WAY TO GET PUBLICITY!

FOOLS!



YOU ARE WRONG! EACH ITEM IN THIS COLLECTION WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN CAUSING TERROR AND HORROR RARELY KNOWN IN THE WORLD TODAY! THE AZTEC DEVIL HERE SLEW THOUSANDS BEFORE HE HIMSELF WAS SLAIN AND PUT INTO THIS MUMMIFIED STATE!

SOUNDS LIKE A LOT OF HOKUM TO ME! HA! NOBODY COULD PROVE IT!



AND AFTERWARD, AS THE FEW VISITORS LEAVE...

WELL, DUNSTER, I'M AFRAID WE'LL HAVE TO CLOSE UP YOUR RELIC ROOM! THE PEOPLE JUST DON'T BELIEVE YOUR EXHIBITIONS OF EVIL AND THE MUSEUM NEEDS THE SPACE!

YES, MR. DANE; THEY COME ONLY TO LAUGH! THEY... DO NOT KNOW OF THE EVIL THAT ACTUALLY LURKS HERE!

DEATH MASK
AMAZON RIVER
KENNETH
CRANDELL
EXPLORER, 1921

MURDER MACE
INSTRUMENT USED TO
EXECUTE FIVE THOUSAND
WARRIORS - 1905 - ENGLAND
JOHN H. READE

I WOULDN'T BE UPSET ABOUT IT, DUNSTER! YOU CAN PACK THESE CURIOS UP IN THE STORE ROOM AND TAKE YOUR OLD JOB BACK IN THE MAIN ROOM!

YES...YES, MR. DANE! I WILL PACK THEM AWAY AT ONCE!

SHORTLY, AS THE DEJECTED LITTLE CURATOR PUTS HIS BELOVED RELICS AWAY IN THE BASEMENT!

WHAT A PITY... BRAVE EXPLORERS RISKED DEATH AND TORTURE TO UNEARTH YOU PIECES... AND NOW NONE WILL BELIEVE THE HORROR THAT YOU HAVE WITNESSED! YOU... SHALL BE BURIED FOREVER IN THE DARK RECESSES OF THE MUSEUM BASEMENT HERE!

SUDDENLY, THE DEATH MASK VIBRATES IN DUNSTER'S HANDS, A HOLLOW EERIE VOICE BOOMS FORTH...

DO... NOT FEAR... ARTHUR DUNSTER! VENGEANCE... SHALL BE... OURS! SOON... THE WORLD... SHALL KNOW... OF THE EVIL POWER WE POSSESS!

WHA...?

ABRUPTLY, THE ROOM RINGS WITH A CHANT OF HORROR UNHEARD BY HUMAN EARS BEFORE! THE CURATOR STAGGERS, STUMBLES BACKWARD AS STARK TERROR CLUTCHES HIM!

THOSE WHO BROUGHT US FORTH... SHALL BE... THE PROOF OF OUR EVIL!

WE HAVE BEEN TAKEN FROM OUR SACRED RESTING PLACES TO FACE SCORN! WE SHALL STRIKE BACK!

THEN... DO NOT FEAR US...

YOU... ARE OUR FRIEND, DUNSTER!

T-THEY'RE ALIVE! T-THEY'VE COME BACK TO LIFE... G-GREAT HEAVENS!

G-GOOD GRIEF, DUNSTER... YOU LOOK FRIGHTFUL! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MAN?

W-WHO WOULD BELIEVE ME? T-THEY'LL CALL ME MAD IF I TELL THEM WHAT I SAW AND HEARD!

NO, NO, MR. DANE! I'VE... JUST HAD A TOUCH OF A HEADACHE! I'LL... BE ALL RIGHT! I'LL... GO HOME AND REST!

STORAGE ROOM

POOR DUNSTER.... HE WORKED NIGHT AND DAY FOR YEARS TO PUT HIS COLLECTION OF HORROR TOGETHER! I'M AFRAID FOR HIS HEALTH.... THE PUBLIC'S REACTION TO THE RELICS WAS QUITE A SHOCK TO HIM!

YES, DUNSTER'S HEALTH HAS NEVER BEEN TOO GOOD! PERHAPS A VACATION WOULD HELP!



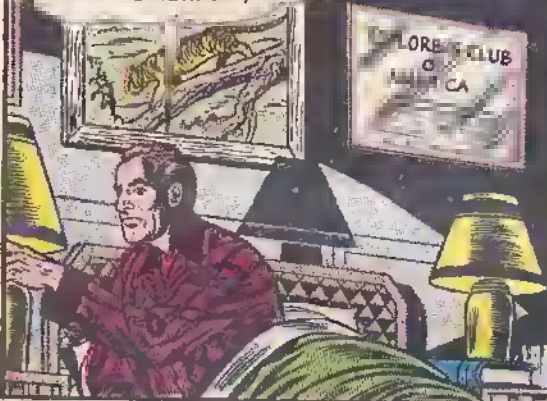
THAT NIGHT, SLEEP ESCAPES ARTHUR DUNSTER AS THE VISIONS OF HORROR COME ALIVE IN HIS SUB-CONSCIOUS MIND!



NO! NO! DON'T TORMENT ME SO! PLEASE... GO AWAY!

MEANWHILE, KENNETH CRANDELL, EXPLORER, PREPARES FOR BED IN HIS MID-TOWN APARTMENT!

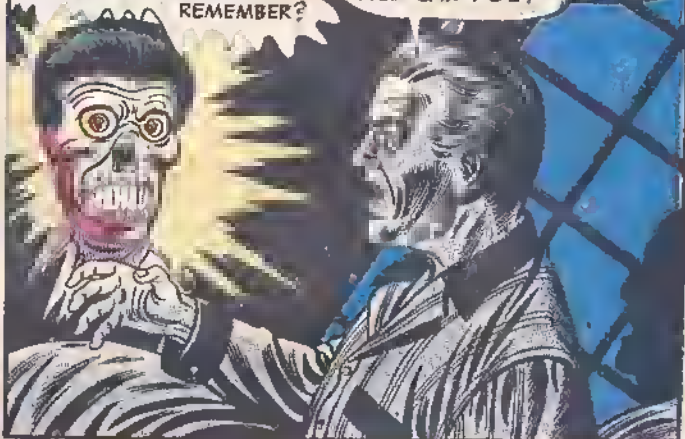
BETTER GET TO BED EARLY.... GOT TO GIVE THAT LECTURE AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB TOMORROW!



SUDDENLY, AS DARKNESS FILLS THE BED ROOM....

HELLO, KENNETH CRANDELL! WE ARE OLD FRIENDS... REMEMBER?

YIIII! THE MASK... THE AMAZON DEATH MASK! IT... CAN'T BE!



AH, BUT IT IS CRANDELL! YOU REMOVED ME FROM THE DIM, DARK TOMB THAT WAS MY RESTING PLACE! NOW, I HAVE COME BACK TO JOIN YOU!

B-BUT YOU'RE AT THE MUSEUM! W-WHY DO YOU COME HERE? Y-YOU'RE ONLY A... A MASK! H-HOW DO YOU TALK... MOVE?



THE LEERING FACE OF EVIL MOVES CLOSER, CLOSER TO CRANDELL! SUDDENLY....

HERE IS YOUR REWARD FOR DEFILING MY RESTING PLACE, CRANDELL! YOU MAY WEAR ME!

YIIIIII! NO, NO, NO, IT'S DEATH TO WEAR YOU!



THEN, THE NECK THINGS TIGHTEN, CRANDELL GASPS FOR AIR, AND...

GASP! GASP! NO, NO... CAN'T BREATHE... CHOKING... CHOKING...



AND NEXT MORNING, MUSEUM OFFICIALS ARE HASTILY SUMMONED BY POLICE AS CRANDELL'S BODY IS DISCOVERED!

I...I FOUND POOR MR. CRANDELL JUST LIKE THAT!

YOU SAY THIS DEATH MASK WAS AT THE MUSEUM! HOW DO YOU ACCOUNT FOR IT BEING HERE?

I...I CAN'T SAY!



THERE CAN ONLY BE ONE EXPLANATION! IT WAS REMOVED FROM EXHIBITION FOR STORAGE YESTERDAY! MR. CRANDELL MUST HAVE TAKEN IT OUT... AND ACCIDENTALLY KILLED HIMSELF WHILE TRYING IT ON!

HMMM! THAT MAKES SENSE, I GUESS! YOU'D THINK HE'D BE CAREFUL PLAYING WITH SUCH A FIENDISH THING, SEEING AS HOW HE FOUND IT!

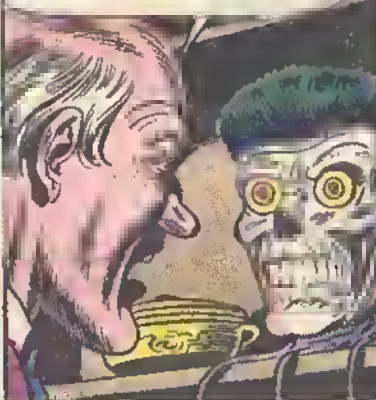


BUT THAT AFTERNOON AT THE MUSEUM, ONE PERSON KNOWS THAT CRANDELL'S DEATH IS NOT AN ACCIDENT!

YOU FIENDS! YOU'VE UNLEASHED YOUR EVIL UPON THE WORLD AGAIN! A-AND I'M HELPLESS TO STOP YOU... FOR NONE WOULD BELIEVE ME!



AND YOU... YOU MURDERER... YOU'VE WON YOUR POINT! MR. DANE WANTS YOU ON DISPLAY UPSTAIRS BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE CURIOUS NOW! THEY WANT TO SEE THE THING THAT KILLED KENNETH CRANDELL! ONLY I KNOW IT WAS NO ACCIDENT!



LATER...

YES, SIR!

THAT'S FINE, DUNSTER! AT LEAST ONE OF YOUR TREASURED RELICS IS GETTING A FOLLOWER!

W-WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME? M-MY HEAD...I'M DIZZY... SHAKING ALL OVER! SHOULD I TELL MR. DANE? SHOULD I WARN HIM THE RELICS THEMSELVES ARE SEEKING... WOULD SURELY THINK ME MAD!



LATE THAT EVENING, TWO FAMOUS ARCHEOLOGISTS, PETER RANDOLF AND JOHN READE, MEET AT THE EXPLORERS CLUB DOWNTOWN!

HELLO, PETER! I GOT YOUR NOTE... BUT ISN'T IT A BIT LATE TO BE MEETING HERE AT THE CLUB?

MY NOTE! BUT, JOHN, I DIDN'T SEND A NOTE! YOU SENT ME ONE REQUESTING I SEE YOU HERE AT MIDNIGHT!

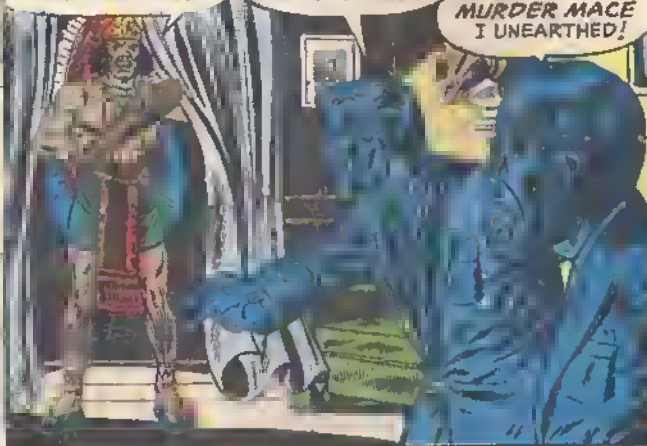


SUDDENLY, BEFORE THE BEWILDERED FRIENDS CAN CONTINUE...

SILENCE! YOU ARE BOTH MY GUESTS THIS EVENING!

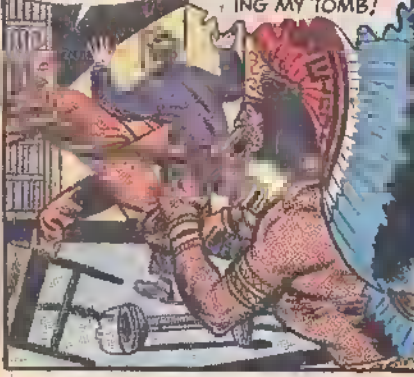
G-GREAT GLORY! THE AZTEC DEVIL RULER!

A-AND CARRYING THE INFAMOUS MURDER MACE I UNEARTHED!



IN STUNNED HORROR THE TWO MEN RECOIL FROM THE CREATURE BEFORE THEM...

I-IMPOSSIBLE!
T- THE THING'S BEEN DEAD FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS!



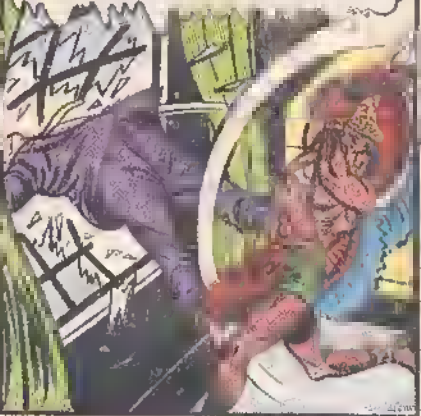
INDEED I HAVE! AND NOW I HAVE COME BACK TO LIFE TO SEEK VENGEANCE AGAINST YOU FOR DESECRATING MY TOMB!

MY EVIL HAS BEEN SCORNED BY THOSE WHO CAME TO LAUGH UPON MY MUMMIFIED BODY! **DIE, DEFILERS... DIE!**



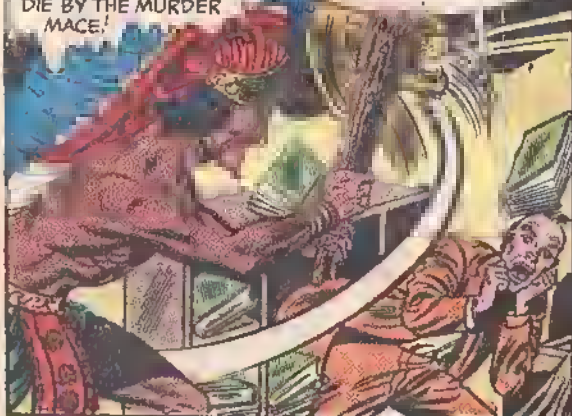
THE CENTURIES OLD TERROR DESCENDS UPON THE PAIR! THE FLAILING MACE CUTS A SWARTH OF DEATH THROUGH THE AIR AND...

NOW, LET THE WORLD BELIEVE WE ARE INDEED THE SYMBOLS OF ALL THAT IS EVIL!



YOU SHALL NOT ESCAPE OUR VENGEANCE, JOHN READE! AS SURELY AS THE SUN WILL RISE TOMORROW YOU WILL DIE BY THE MURDER MACE!

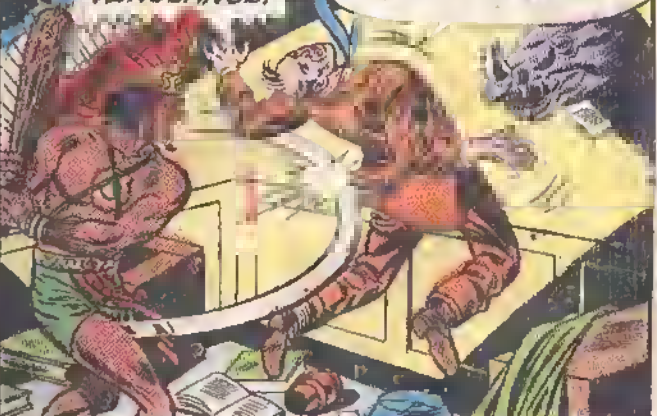
MERCY... MERCY! G-GO BACK TO YOUR DUSTY TOMB... I'LL NEVER TROUBLE YOU AGAIN, DEVIL RULER!



BUT THERE IS NO MERCY WITHIN THE LONG-DEAD MONSTER... NOR IN THE MACE THAT HAS DEALT A THOUSAND DEATH BLOWS BEFORE!

AND THUS... **VENGEANCE!**

YAAARRGHH!



THEN, THE EYES OF THE FEARFUL DEATH RULER GLAZE OVER! WITH SLOW, MECHANICAL STEPS HE TREADS FROM THE SCENE OF HIS CARNAGE!



IT... IS DONE... NO MORE SHALL THEY SCOFF... AT OUR POWERS!

AFTERWARD, THE DAWN OPENS A DAY OF SHOCK AND HORROR AT THE MUSEUM!

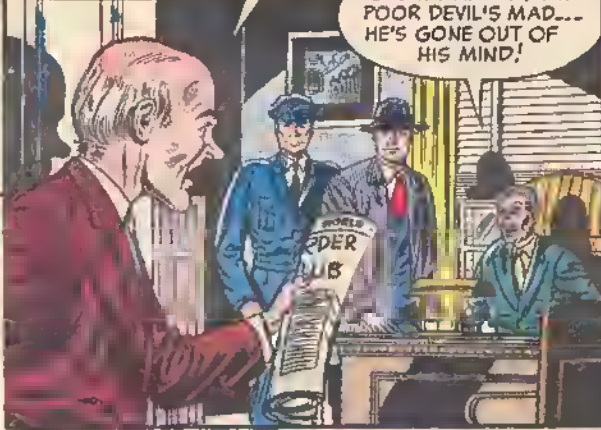
THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, MR. DANE... THIS MACE WAS THE WEAPON THAT KILLED THE MEN! CAN YOU IDENTIFY THE HANDWRITING OF THOSE NOTES WE FOUND IN THEIR POCKETS!

I-I SEE, THESE NOTES LURED THEM TO THE RENDEZVOUS OF MURDER! I-IT'S FANTASTIC!



SUDDENLY... MR. DANE... I'VE JUST READ THE NEWS-PAPER! I... CAN'T KEEP MY HIDEOUS SECRET ANY LONGER! THE RELICS ARE KILLING THOSE MEN... THEY TOLD ME SO!

GREAT HANNAH! THE POOR DEVIL'S MAD... HE'S GONE OUT OF HIS MIND!



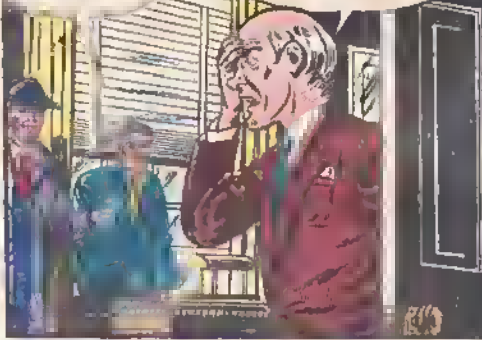
NO, NO! I FEARED YOU WOULD THINK ME CRAZY! THAT'S WHY I KEPT MY FEARFUL SECRET UNTIL NOW! THE RELICS... THEY PLOTTED THESE MURDERS TO PROVE THEIR EVIL!

NO, DUNSTER... THESE NOTES THAT LURED READE AND RANDOLF TO THEIR DEATH PROVE OTHERWISE! THEY ARE IN YOUR HANDWRITING, DUNSTER! YOU KILLED THOSE MEN TO PROVE YOUR RELICS WERE CURSED... EVIL!



YOU'RE ILL... PERHAPS YOU DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE COMMITTING YOUR OWN HORRIBLE DEEDS, DUNSTER! YOU'D BEST GO WITH THE OFFICERS!

M-MY MIND... YES, THAT'S WHAT HAPPENED! THOSE DEVILISH THINGS... THEY'VE TWISTED MY BRAIN... MADE ME A MURDERER! T-THOSE FEARFUL HEADACHES, AND NIGHTMARES... IT WAS THEM! I WAS POSSESSING MY SOUL!



WILD WITH THE HORROR OF HIS DEEDS, THE CURATOR RUSHES THROUGH THE MUSEUM...

I'LL KILL THEM... I'LL KILL THEM ALL FOR THEIR TREACHERY!

STOP, DUNSTER! STOP!

GREAT CATS! HE'S GONE BESERK!



THEN, AS DUNSTER RUSHES INTO THE STORAGE ROOM...

NO, NO! YIIIIARRRRRGHH!

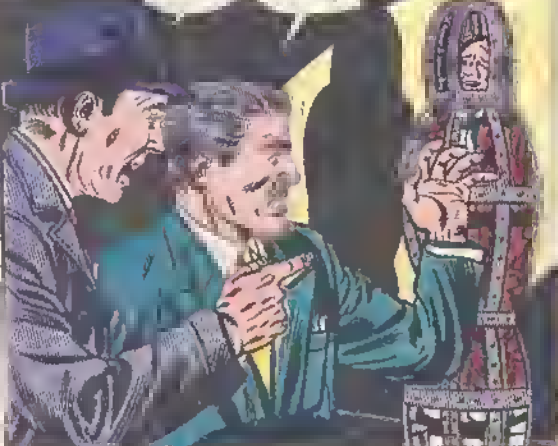
GOOD HEAVENS! WHAT'S HE DONE NOW!



AND A MOMENT LATER...

T-THE IRON MAIDEN... HE STUMBLED INTO HER!

UGH! WHAT A MISERABLE FATE.



AFTERWARD, WHEN THE POLICE HAVE SEARCHED THE ROOM...

YEAH, THIS IS HOW HE DID IT, ALL RIGHT! USED THIS DISGUISE TO MAKE UP AS THAT HIDEOUS AZTEC DEVIL RULER!

AND THAT MEANS HE STRAPPED THE DEATH MASK ON THE FIRST VICTIM ALSO! HE WAS HIS OWN EVIL!

YES, BUT IT'S STRANGE HE SHOULD MISTAKENLY STUMBLE INTO THE CLUTCHES OF THE IRON MAIDEN TORTURE INSTRUMENT! PERHAPS... THE EVIL HE WORE ACTUALLY DID EXIST!



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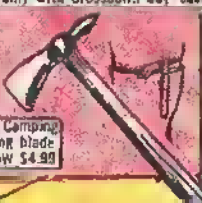


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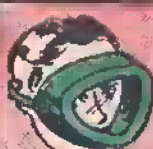
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"COMMANDO" KNIFE. Real "Commando" weapon. An all-metal, needle-pointed, razor-sharp 12" knife that may save your life if you hunt or fish where dangerous animals or poison snakes appear. Military Sheath. NOW \$4.97

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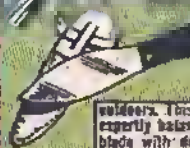


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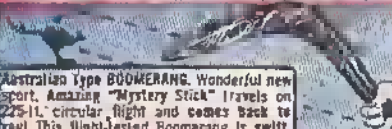
SQUIRREL CALL. Brings the squirrels to you! So natural they can't resist it—they come right out into the open. Wonderful for nature lovers and hunters. Full directions. NOW \$3.98



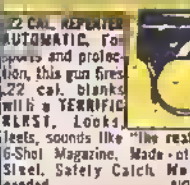
THROWING DAGGER. An exciting sport that provides fun and thrills—known for centuries. This knife is light in weight and expertly balanced to stick. Tempered steel blade with double bevel edges. Embossed Leather Hunting Sheath. NOW \$2.49



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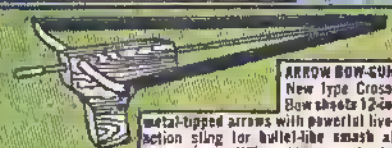
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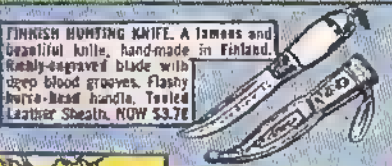
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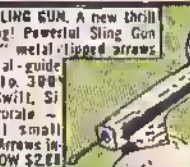
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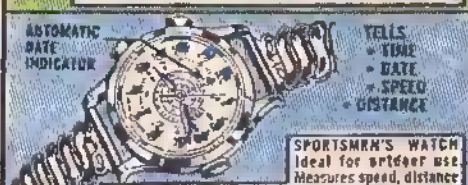
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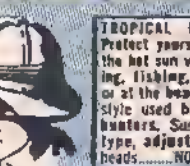
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